

Public Libraries

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Cataloging

In answer to requests from a good many who are interested, an attempt has been made to present in printed form conclusions reached in discussion of many technical questions at various meetings of library workers interested in technical library processes. There is gathered here some

of the opinions expressed by those prepared to speak with authority both from study and experience concerning the subjects which they present. The quantity of material at hand exceeds the limit possible to give to it in this issue but what is given here is in direct answer to requests that are on file.

The Amenities of book cataloging

In the first place, I have a large, pleasant room—that is being more fortunate than are many catalogers. I have south and east windows; they give on the south to rolling prairie land with a copse of fir trees in the distance. To the east, they look out upon the same prairie land rolling up to a ridge very far away, with vistas here and there of avenues of trees. My windows are so wide, indeed, that many times at night, in case I work overtime (as I often do), they present to me “glimpses of the moon.” But what I want to speak of especially are my “glimpses into books,” and what they do for me. I can have only glimpses, of course. I may not, while working, read a book from beginning to end when there are cards to be made and a hungry public waiting to devour the book at once. We catalogers can get much while we cursorily examine the books upon which we are laboring. For example, the other day, while cataloging a volume on The Immigrant press and its control, I stopped to read the very full table of contents (which is legitimate while working). It was amazing how much

this table of contents yielded up to me. I went on working feeling that I had really considerably increased my store of knowledge. There are many books whose tables of contents, tho comparatively short, give one as much of an idea about a book as would the actual reading of the book itself.

A day or so ago, a book of collective biography went thru my hands which discussed in one of its chapters, Bonar Law. Of course, I had to look him up to get his name form, and was surprised to find his name was Law, and not at all a compound name, like Lloyd-George. A cataloger, so you see, has every chance in the world to know right name forms and avoid popular misconceptions thereupon.

I was recently cataloging a book on Bret Harte. I glanced at a page—he was the first editor of the *Overland Monthly*, I read there. “Well and good,” said I, “that fact salted down in my memory may be useful to me sometime and may be a nucleus around which other facts about Bret Harte may gather from time to time as I come across them.” It is thus we catalogers pile up knowledge. I can conceive of any number of very good

biographies of persons of note growing up in one's mind thru just these hasty glances and the hasty gathering and holding in one's head of facts, one after the other. And on *so many* subjects do we have chances to become well versed. I was cataloging an opera score only yesterday. How interesting it was to examine a page of the score and see that a few bars of the music covered a whole page with the notes for each instrument, and to wonder how the conductor could keep it all in mind! When next I hear grand opera I shall listen with enhanced appreciation.

Then, another book taught me something. It was on Switzerland. I glanced at a page as I worked and saw the word Lausanne. Ah! There it was, a word becoming rapidly familiar to me (for I read the papers out of hours). I had not known just where in Europe the Lausanne conference was being held, and here it was—its exact location came to me in a single paragraph.

Our library buys a great many reproductions of famous paintings, which it falls to my lot to catalog. One was Burne-Jone's King Cophetua. Now I was rather hazy on King Cophetua until one day, lo, a book of old Scottish ballads came into my hands to catalog, and here was the whole story in a brief ballad. Two months later I had to add to the library a volume of Tennyson's poems. And here again I found my story for the picture, for my eyes happened to fall on the poem, *The Beggar maid*.

And so it goes—on and on. Cataloging is hard work and it often is too little appreciated; but if one takes a pride in being well informed, there is no work like that of the cataloger. There is no end to the worth-while and interesting facts that may be "picked up in passing" and added to our store to be used when occasion requires.

A CATALOGER

Higher valuation of cataloging

William Warner Bishop, speaking before the students of the New York State library school, said:

If I were planning for the best sort of experience as a training for later work, I would urge most library school students on graduation to spend a couple of years in the cataloging department of a good-sized library. I do not know of anything more valuable in the way of training in accuracy, observation, judgment and general library skill than such practical work as cataloging. In my own work I should prefer graduates with such experience to persons of same equipment who had had a couple of years' experience in reference work.

I feel that the greatest need in cataloging now is to dignify the subject and encourage catalogers in their special line, making them feel that cataloging is not only important but essential to the whole library scheme. They are the ones who make the whole collection of books accessible and they must uphold their end of the work.

To fill her place well, a cataloger should know every phase of library science and be able to enter into the spirit of her work. She must make the catalog a working tool for every department in the library. We are rapidly getting away from the old idea that the catalog is simply a record of books. We now regard it as a storehouse of information and know that in order to make it the "working tool" it should be, the cataloger must keep in touch with every department, the reference, children's and circulating.

Thru the cataloger the influence of the library may be materially increased by outside affiliations:

- 1) Study of the school curriculum so as to know what teachers will demand from the library and to see that the catalog answers that demand
- 2) Study community interests, sending "interested to know" cards of books recently received in the library on special subjects to people likely to be interested in them
- 3) Be ready and willing to adapt the Dewey classification to a 100 or 1,000 book collection for a manufacturer or school library
- 4) A cataloger has an excellent opportunity of collecting information on local history material

5) Catalogers are trained in accuracy and their adaptability for research fits them for bibliographical work. What would we do without the excellent Pittsburgh material?

I feel that one of the most important things to do in any discussion of cataloging is to urge the use of Library of Congress cards as a *basis* of work. I see no reason why the smallest library should not use them in conjunction with the ordinary "typewritten" card for fiction and poetry. Where a contents list is needed, as for short stories or collections of plays, also when a classification or the nationality of an author is doubtful, the Library of Congress classification will solve the problem. A great deal of time and energy could be saved by using Library of Congress author entries and the valuable *suggestions* given in subject headings. However, one point that I must bring out is that these subject headings are for a very large library, and are not always appropriate for the small library. They should be revised by the A. L. A. subject headings. For example, the subject, Zoology—Juvenile and popular literature, is narrowed down to Zoology by the A. L. A. list.

Modified classification. One place that modified classification has been used successfully is in drama, which is treated as fiction is done, arranged in alphabetical file by author regardless of country. The drama is shelved in a special place in the library with all books on dramatic criticism on an adjoining shelf. This makes it much simpler for the public, and in one library, at least, has been proved satisfactory.

Cataloging costs were worked out on a basis of time by Mr Cutter several years ago. He sent a form to the larger libraries all over the country and computed the time spent on author entry, subject headings, classification and mechanical preparation of a book, and his conclusion was that the average cost was ten to twelve cents to catalog a book. This would be probably doubled now.

Assistants and surroundings. Assistants in the cataloging department should be scheduled in other departments in order to get the viewpoint of the public. A good idea is to have assistants file cards in the catalog during busy hours so that they may help the public in using the catalog. A catalog room should be one of the best lighted and most attractive rooms in the library. It is only justice to those who are doing continuous, painstaking work seven and a half hours a day.

At a meeting of the Cataloging section of the A. L. A. there was a chronic complaint among the catalogers of the accumulation of work in their departments. Some were plodding along under work inherited from their predecessors, others were called on to do more work than the cataloging staff was capable of. In the midst of this, one thorough-going, hustling librarian, who was doing more bibliographical work than anyone else there, reported her work up-to-date. Hers was a most refreshing report, I assure you. She was then with a large library and she is now with a larger one. It is up to the catalogers themselves to stress their department more, but before they do this they must make good.

In cataloging there is an element of stability and permanence which carries with it an inner satisfaction which is very real. One thing that made an impression on me in my library school days was a remark made by a prominent librarian who came to talk to us soon after the Albany library fire. He said he had done some cataloging in that library in his younger days so the fire was not quite so tragic to him as to others.

This I have observed, that libraries that have not forged ahead have poorly equipped catalog rooms and an overworked cataloger. Show me a progressive library and its catalog will prove to be an up-to-date working tool.

Organization of catalog departments

Ruth Rosholt, Minneapolis public library

Individual problems of organization differ with the requirements of each library. The division of work between different departments varies considerably but certain basic principles hold good no matter what the problem. Almost any scheme will work if well thought out and details systematized. The short compass of this paper does not allow a full treatment of the subject, so only a few of the salient features will be reviewed.

Coöperation with other departments

The obvious first step is, of course, to determine what work shall be assigned to the Catalog department and what to the Order department. We will assume that our Catalog department takes the book after the mechanical work of pocketing and stamping has been done and that from that time on, until it is sent to the shelves, it is a Catalog department responsibility. A very good arrangement, however, is to hand the book over to the Catalog department after checking and let the Catalog department pocket and stamp in lots most conveniently handled. A further variation that works well is to take marking of the back of books out of the Catalog department and assign to the bindery.

Much time can be saved to a library if Order and Catalog departments dovetail their work closely by separating new and duplicate titles, fiction and classed books, indicating classification of duplicate classed books and putting shelf-list information in each copy. A reasonable care in sending out books, sorted by author on the trucks, saves time. It will often be found that a small investment of time on a first process saves much time all along the line later on.

From the Catalog department, coöperation is necessary with every department served. Certain classes of books need to be given preference, records have to be furnished at intervals to suit the convenience of other depart-

ments. Supplementary records such as weekly and daily lists of new books, etc., help to keep the desk attendants informed as to new additions.

Arrangement of room and tools

Knowing what is expected of the Catalog department, the next step is to so arrange the room as to operate with the greatest speed and least friction. Each group of workers needs its tools close at hand. This means grouping catalogers together, shelf-listers by themselves, etc. Tools consulted by other departments should be placed near the entrance to the room. Shelf-listers and pages who do the marking should be near together. Everything should be plainly labeled so that books in process may be easily located and kept in order. Charting the course of the book stream is helpful.

Arrangement and grading of work

Planning the routing of a book so that each process contributes to the one following is a time saver. For example, if assignment of author and subject entries is made, first the classifier can also act as reviser and has the benefit of all information garnered for subject headings. Separation of mechanical work from that requiring technical skill saves time and makes for efficiency. Mechanical work can be pushed for speed while the other type needs consideration, often much research. One should not be allowed to interfere with the other.

Elimination of unnecessary detail

In any record department it is fatally easy to start records that seem useful at the time but whose upkeep grows into a heavy burden. Every record should justify its existence and not be made just because it has always been made. Every process has to be watched for speed of handling and not one unnecessary item recorded.

Mechanical processes can be cut down by making one record serve as many purposes as possible. A liberal use of printed and multigraphed forms saves time, so do stamps made for reiterated phrases.

Specialization of work

If each branch of work such as shelf-listing, marking of books, typing cards, cataloging and classifying, is definitely assigned to one assistant or group of assistants, more speed can be secured than if work is scattered. This plan also permits of work being assigned to suit individuals. A good cataloger may be a poor classifier or *vice versa*. A good typist may write a poor hand. A careful shelf-lister may be quite unable to grapple with a cataloger's research problems. A scholarly type of mind with good judgment may be hopelessly at sea with details of routine work.

Two dangers must be guarded against. Specializing must not be carried to such an extent that no one else can do the specialist's work in her absence. Each position needs one or more understudies. Secondly, over-specialization may become monotonous. However, there is always enough work in a department to assign to each assistant several kinds of work.

Factors which make for individual efficiency

Some of these have been implied under other topics. Proper assignment of work to suit the individual's abilities and trend of mind makes for satisfaction in doing congenial work well. By assigning a certain field to an individual she is able to build up a valuable fund of information on that particular subject and feels pride in her special line of work.

After having decided upon results to be attained, to let an assistant alone to work out her problem in her own way develops her feeling of responsibility, her initiative and self-reliance. Interference as to details means that only mediocre assistants can be employed as an intelligent, capable assistant resents too close supervision and can not do her best under such conditions.

Keeping individual reports, not so detailed as to be burdensome, helps develop a pride of accomplishment and enables an assistant to know whether

she is measuring up to grade or not. It also helps spur an assistant to plan her time to best advantage.

Assignment of work so as to allow variety is wise. Arrangement of routine so that typists help with filing of cards and so that catalogers help with the filing of the main catalog lets each one see what becomes of her work after it leaves her hands.

An outline plan of the department's work in each assistant's hands helps her to find her own niche and expedite the work of others.

Factors which make for department efficiency

First and foremost is team work. If each one understands the relation of her department to the library system and her own position in relation to her department and the library she feels her responsibility and an increasing pride in her own work.

Staff meetings help keep the department working as a whole, informed as to catalog problems and in touch with the library.

Occasional "recesses" for tea are more than made up in the relaxation they afford and the good feeling they engender.

Reports, the bugbear of many, if intelligently kept and interpreted, build up a real joy in department work and pride of achievement. They also keep up department "morale" in times when work presses and outside demands are urgent. An occasional "time study" which accounts for one or two week's work and the way each person planned (or did not plan) her time is a good scheme.

An occasional inventory of department accomplishment is good for the chief and, in conference with the department, often leads to improved methods of work.

Keeping the department closely in touch with other departments means that the efforts of the catalog department will be intelligently directed and prevents its drifting into a quiet back water of its own without vision of the service to be rendered.

A note on the cataloging situation

Aksel G. S. Josephson, The John Crerar library, Chicago

There is evidently among librarians a feeling that there is something wrong in the field of cataloging, but the reason for it, or the remedy, is not generally understood.

The deterioration of the cataloger was curiously enough coincident with the widening distribution of printed cards by the Library of Congress and, as a result of that service, the idea got abroad that now there would be no need of catalogers—the Library of Congress would take care of the whole business of cataloging, or nearly all of it, and there would be no further need for really expert catalogers; a few drudges would be enough to take care of books not cataloged by the Library of Congress—a fallacy with far-reaching results. It has influenced the library schools where the importance of a sound foundation of cataloging practice for all librarians is overlooked and the cultural foundation of cataloging and classification is neglected. It has influenced the executives and the trustees whose lack of appreciation of the importance of the work of catalogers finds its expression in the pay roll.

The remedy? Give catalogers adequate salaries and a higher grade of workers will be attracted who will demand a better training in the library schools—and something more than "training." Offer more scientific courses in the library schools and they will attract a higher grade of students who, when leaving library school, will demand higher pay.

Under cataloging I include classification, for the two are parts of the same process, and where they are separated both cataloger and classifier lose, and the library itself suffers.

To catalog means something more than to copy titles on cards, assign subject headings and class numbers—that is merely the final touch, the result of a whole process of study of a

more or less complicated nature: of questions of authorship, of the scope and contents of books, of their relations to other books, of their subject matter to other subjects.

The real education of the cataloger should begin at college. In the junior and senior years specially prepared courses of study should be offered to those who expect to make librarianship their life work. Among the requirements for entering this course should be at least four years of German and French. The course itself should include extended language studies with the history of literature, belletristic, humanistic, and scientific in the languages chosen.

The two-year library school course in cataloging does not cover more than what is necessary for any library worker to know. Those who intend to take up cataloging as a specialty need more. For them I would require an additional year that might be taken either at a library school, a university or some library of high standing. The studies carried on during this year should be chiefly directed reading in the history of learning and professional and bibliographical literature. This year should prepare the student for the self-education which he, if he is to avoid stagnation, should carry on during the whole of his professional career.

Isaac Casaubon said in a moment of disgust with the kind of librarian who uses his official position to carry on his own favorite studies (the species is, I think, not quite dead yet): "The librarian who reads is lost." This has been taken up as a slogan by the unthinking. The contrary is true: the librarian who does not read is lost. Without further study and reading, the cataloger will tend to become a mere drudge and the librarian a mere executive, two species which should be included in the litany.

I have thruout this paper used the masculine pronoun, and advisedly, not only because it can be used *commune*

generis, while the feminine cannot, but because I do not regard the library profession, and particularly not cataloging, as an occupation for young ladies who wish to have some genteel work. Cataloging is, in my opinion, an occupation for men and women with a scientific bent of mind and a wide range of intellectual interests ready to do difficult and monotonous work without feeling it a drudgery.

To raise the standard of the cataloger should be regarded as the principal function of the Catalog section. As cataloging is the basic work of librarianship, the standard of the profession as a whole will thereby be raised, since the claim of librarians to be members of a learned profession mainly rests on the work of the catalogers.

Harvard College library*

T. Franklin Currier, assistant-librarian

Harvard catalogers are in any movement to better the service which our libraries can give to individuals legitimately utilizing our resources, whether they be third grade youngsters looking for good books or mature investigators engaged on important pieces of research.

I know little about the service for third grade youngsters, and this ignorance leads me to question whether the line of cleavage in our section meeting ought to be "cataloging" (do we all agree on what the term means?) versus other forms of library work.

Should the section not broaden out and include all high-grade assistants and department heads who are engaged in procuring the book and making it available, including assistants in the order, accession, catalog, classification, bibliographical and reference departments? The only term I can devise to describe this work is the "bibliographical assistant," with emphasis on "assistant," for I believe the discussions should be from the point of view of the worker rather than from

the point of view of the librarian, thus differentiating the proceedings from such sections as the College and Reference section.

Within this broad field there ought further to be a division based on the status of the libraries represented and the character of the public served. The cataloger of the university library has little actual conception of the help needed by a reference librarian who is answering the demands of a group of junior high-school pupils, and no more has the cataloger for a public library of 100,000 volumes any conception of the problems facing the classifier in a scholarly library of a million volumes that is struggling to keep abreast of the vast political, social and economic changes of the last decade.

For really satisfactory mutual discussion these groups of workers must meet separately. Speaking for the large library, I can well imagine the help that would come in meeting with a compact body of workers engaged in the processes that go on in the large research library.

In the same way, the bibliographical assistants in the moderate sized public library would have mutually interesting problems as would the assistants of the college library which devotes itself chiefly to undergraduate work.

An additional reason for this change in our meetings is the constant cry about the effacement of the cataloger.

Now the longer I study the situation in the large library, at least, the more I deplore the line of cleavage between the old-fashioned library departments (order, catalog, classification and reference) and the more I feel that 1) the really good assistant who has made a specialty of any branch should by right assume greater responsibility for her subject in the work of all departments, and 2) that an assistant cannot grow to greatest usefulness in one department without absorbing a great deal of the work of the other departments—that cataloger and classifier can do their work very much better, and that our

*Letter to Catalog section of A. L. A., Hot Springs meeting, Miss Helen Sutliff, chairman.

public is better served, if the individual assistant be allowed to shoulder the responsibility of building up the collections they work on and to some extent meet by direct contact the demands and needs of the user of the books they have acquired, placed on the shelves, and recorded. Organization of this kind will prevent impracticable and expensive over-refinement of records and will rescue the cataloger from deadly ruts and isolation. It will also give to the public actual contact with those who best know the library's resources.

I hope the catalog section may again tackle the situation at the Library of Congress. For 20 years or more that institution has carried on the biggest job in practical coöperation that the library world has ever seen. A toilsome but necessary process has been performed once for all by a well-trained and scholarly staff, where

formerly the process was repeated over and over again for identical books by catalogers scattered over the country. This service should not be allowed to lapse or to diminish in value. Service in the catalog department at the Library of Congress should be the highest paid form of service in library work and, because of the remuneration and opportunity for service and scholarly research, should attract the highest type of cataloger. It should be a good service in which to remain and not a good service to get away from. That the Library of Congress cards have been so satisfactory in spite of discouraging surroundings speaks volumes for the devotion and self-sacrificing energy of those who are supervising the work. I hope the section may express to Mr Martel its gratefulness for the work he and his faithful staff have performed and find out 1) whether our action of 1921 has had the slightest effect and 2) what more we can do.

A Discreditable Lack of Appreciation

Resolution passed unanimously by the Catalog section of the A. L. A. at its session in Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 26, 1923:

Whereas there are today several thousand libraries in America dependent in a large measure on the Library of Congress for the scientific accuracy of their cataloging records, a coöperative service that entails not only an actual saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars but, what is more important, furnishing to these institutions accurate and scholarly catalogs and classifications of a standard and character otherwise beyond their means;

Whereas this is a service which should grow and expand, embracing a constantly increasing number of institutions, and extending in scope so as to cover an ever-widening range of literary production;

Whereas this service involves bibliographic erudition of the highest order, long technical preparation, based on a sound and thorough education, with unusual linguistic equipment, qualifications not now obtainable for the salaries voted by Congress for this work, 20 or more years ago;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Catalog section of the American Library Association urge that the assistants in the Library of Congress and other government institutions engaged in the important bibliographic work to which reference has been made, be so classified under the new law to go into effect July 1, 1924, that the resulting salaries shall be sufficient not only to retain that important nucleus of scientifically trained workers, who for years, at great sacrifice to themselves, have served with devotion in this coöperative work centering at the Library of Congress, thereby preventing this work from disintegration, but also in addition permit the acquirement of new assistants capable of carrying on these activities, so vitally important not only to libraries and educational institutions of the United States but of other countries as well.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN WILEY

EDNA L. GOSS

J. C. M. HANSON, Chairman

Copies of this resolution were mailed to Dr Putnam and 51 congressmen.

The report in P. L. for November, p. 518, is not encouraging.

In the Letter Box

Concerning Book Lists

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the October number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, I have read the statement of Hiller C. Wellman, chairman of the Editorial committee of the American Library Association, regarding the lists which they have published and am venturing to express my opinion regarding them.

I think the desire for printed lists compiled by authorities on the subject, to be distributed to patrons of the library, would theoretically fill a long felt want and be a tremendous saving to the library, but from my own experience, they can only be used practically in a large library with a large collection of books. The lists which have been printed so far by the American Library Association have all come to the library; in almost every instance, two-thirds of the books listed were not in the library. We had books on the subject that were equally as good, but in giving the printed list to library patrons, I have found that they are very dissatisfied if even one book on the list is not in the library and what I have done is to use the lists as suggestive of similar lists made up of books that are in the library. The A. L. A. lists thus save us a tremendous amount of thinking and initiative during the busy library hours.

I heartily approved of the two reading courses on journalism and accounting, bought all of the books that were listed and one hundred copies of each course, and they were both widely used and heartily commended. Our largest and most influential newspaper which circulates all through Northern California, made a feature of the course on journalism on the Saturday book page and several of the reporters read all of the books.

The course on business was too comprehensive for our readers. It may have been very useful in a large city in a big business house, but was not at

all suitable for our city. I gave it to two or three young men who use our commercial books and they felt that it went too deeply into the economics of business. For that reason, I did not attempt to push it. A brief reading course in business similar to the first two that were published might easily have led to the more comprehensive course.

As for the list for tired eyes, I am one of the twenty-six hundred librarians who ordered a copy, but it came just as I was leaving on my vacation and I have had no time to check it with our books or plan for putting it into operation. However, this and the list of books for sick people in the hospital library, I am sure can be used to good advantage in our library this winter and I am planning to give them both to our newspapers.

As for the children's book list, our experience was that as a suggestive list for the purchase of books for Christmas, *The Bookshelf for Boys and Girls*, having more of the new books listed, satisfied the demands of our patrons to a greater degree. The first year that we celebrated Children's Book Week, the small quantity of the copies of *The Bookshelf* were completely exhausted during the week and the A. L. A. list remained on our hands after Christmas was over. Children, like adults, do like new books and so many of the books listed on the A. L. A. list were on the required reading list of the schools, that seeing the names again in print only seemed to bore them, although lovely editions of the old time favorites did appeal to many of the children.

It will be interesting to know the comments of other librarians on this subject and personally I will endeavor to co-operate in every way in furthering the work of the A. L. A. committee.

SUSAN T. SMITH
City librarian

Sacramento, Cal.

Pamphlets in the Library

Whatever system other libraries may employ in the preparation of pamphlets for use of the public, and however completely that system may suffice, this is true: the plan in use in this library causes no confusion, is clear and easy to use, and the public is adequately served. The order of procedure is as follows:

- 1 All pamphlets arrive at the reference desk, where they are inspected and assigned to that department where they will be most useful, either to the circulating shelves, municipal file, reference collection, clipping file, bibliography file, or cataloging room.
- 2 They are then sent to the catalog department where they are classed by subject and each pamphlet is given a consecutive number.
- 3 Records of circulating pamphlets are made as follows:
 - a) A shelf list card for each box in the class is made, and this card is filed in the main shelf list.
 - b) A card is made for the pamphlet shelf list. Ordinary waste catalog cards are used for this file, and each pamphlet is added to the card in the order in which it is received, hence the consecutive numbers. This pamphlet shelf list is kept at the reference desk.
 - c) For minor subjects under the main subject, a cross reference card is made for the catalog, and the tracing is made on the reverse of the pamphlet shelf list card.
 - d) A card is made under the official author entry for each important pamphlet, all others being

marked "not listed" on the pamphlet shelf list card and on the pamphlet itself. This card file, under official author, is also kept at the reference desk, and is known as the "pamphlet check list file." The card contains class number, consecutive pamphlet number, official author, title and date.

e) For every important pamphlet a main card under the official author is made for the catalog, and a subject card is also made. The main card contains the tracing for the subject used, in the customary manner.

Our pamphlets are filed in ordinary pamphlet boxes on the circulating shelves, the box immediately following the books in the class. When pamphlets are borrowed, they are slipped into temporary folders which contain pocket and date slip, and are fastened in by using a rubber band up and down the center of the folder. A temporary book card is made at the charging desk, and pamphlets are charged out by class number and individual pamphlet (consecutive) number only.

No class number is assigned to the pamphlets in the municipal, clipping or bibliography files, but they are treated as is usual in vertical files, placed in folders under the broad subject. Cards for all important pamphlets are made, however, under the official author for the pamphlet check list file, and for the main catalog. Instead of class number, the location symbol is used, M. C. for Municipal collection, Bibliog. for bibliography file, etc. These pamphlets are given a consecutive number, not listed in the main shelf list.

All is grist that comes to our mill, small maps, study outlines, biographies issued by publishing houses, publications from insurance companies, banks, railroads, chambers of commerce, social service bodies, city planning boards, everything in short that will be useful to our city government, to

any club or group, or to the individual citizen.

I must conclude as I began. We offer no excuse for our management of pamphlets. There are no extenuating circumstances. Our scheme works!

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Long Beach, Cal.

On the Record

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

An historical pageant was given in connection with a large home-coming celebration which was held in Galesburg, October 1-6. The library float was fortunate enough to secure the second prize. Considering the fact that there were more than 100 floats in the parade, including industrial floats, which was nearly three miles long, that we did all the decorating of the float ourselves, thus reducing the cost to about \$50, some of the floats cost much more than that, I feel the library has reason to be proud of its record.

It was estimated that about 40,000 saw the parade, which made the affair a good advertisement for the institution.

Public library
Galesburg, Illinois

A. F. H.

A note to PUBLIC LIBRARIES from Thomas-Lynch Montgomery, librarian of the Historical society of Pennsylvania and a member of the Board of trustees of the Free library, Philadelphia, contains the following interesting item:

I went over our new library on the Parkway with some of the force a few days ago and I am quite convinced that it will suit our purpose admirably. The whole of the front of the first floor above stairs is devoted to the open shelf collection of some 40,000 volumes, and by crossing a hallway the public can make use of the Pepper hall or reference collection which takes up the corresponding space at the rear of the building. A quick service reference room is provided as you enter the front door and all other matters are made subsidiary to this general idea. We shall be ready to receive the A. L. A. in 1926, when it has reached its fiftieth anniversary.

City Meeting of A. L. A.

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Most heartily do I endorse your leading editorial in November PUBLIC LIBRARIES concerning a meeting place for the A. L. A.

Cities ought to be tabooed, for experience has shown that the best work and the most satisfactory results are obtained when our meetings are held in the country or at the seashore. It would seem as though every Executive Board would look at the problem from this point of view rather than from the narrower one of securing the largest attendance.

FRANK P. HILL

Brooklyn public library

So many complimentary things were said about a number on the program of the meeting of the Kansas library association at Iola, October 9-11, that a request was sent asking the privilege of presenting it in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

"If," for Librarians

(With deep apologies to Kipling)

If you can meet the whims of every patron
With courtesy, and yet not be a tool;
If you can greet each gentleman and matron
And child with pleasant face, nor let them
break a rule;
If you can find them everything they look for
When in your heart you're often in despair;
If you can purchase for them every book or
Magazine they wish, with treasury almost
bare;
If you can fill your shelves with latest novels,
Nor shock the tender mind of youth or age;
If books you send to palaces and hovels
Can each their sorrow and despair assuage;
If you can guide the mind of youth to reading
Books that inspire to noble thought and
deed,
If you can help them see this old world's
needing
Something to replace its selfishness and
greed;
If you can find one unforgiving minute
That isn't full, in all the long day thru,
In which perhaps you may collect your senses.
And read a magazine or book review;
If you file cards, stamp books, and meet the
public,
Mend worn-out books, and catalog the new,
And do the reference work—you are a genius,
And what is more, you'll earn your salary,
too.

ANNIE WALTON

Sterling, Kansas

Monthly—Except August
and September

Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

216 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under.

In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money orders should be sent.

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Contributions for current numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

1896

What is writ, is writ
Perhaps in water, perhaps not.

1923

A. L. A. Meeting Place for 1924

REPORTS have come in from readers all over the country endorsing the protest in the November issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES against a city meeting of the A. L. A. One sample is given on p. 557.

A letter sent to members of the Executive board brought the answer that a definite decision has not yet been made. Some of the Executive board are strongly of the opinion that nothing else is possible and, as one member expressed it, "If you have any better suggestions to make, please pass them along." This invitation is further passed along to those who are acquainted with places over the country prepared to entertain the convention.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES' suggestion would be to go to one of the big hotels on the Atlantic coast—Swampscott, Asbury Park, perhaps the outskirts of

Atlantic City—anywhere, where "entertainment for man and beast" might be obtained for the coin of the nation, in one of the hostelrys not in too close proximity to crowded habitation to enjoy the rest, air, and, more than all else, independence.

One member of the Executive board said, "I hope those who feel as you do will express themselves as frankly in this matter."

And why not? Many of the members closed their letters endorsing the idea of a resort convention or expressing themselves otherwise on the subject by saying "not for publication" or "do not quote me." Again, why not? Is not this the time to express one's preference? Surely one is no longer afraid of *lèse-majesté*, if he ever was! After awhile one must abide by the decision in the fullest coöperation.

In the meantime?

Changes in Boston

IMPORTANT changes have been made in the administration of the Boston public library by a vote of its Board of trustees. Perhaps the most important was that made in the title belonging to the place which Mr Belden has occupied since March 15, 1917, when he was made librarian of the Boston public library. His title hereafter is to be director of the library. It is believed that this term more properly describes the wide scope of executive and managerial duties performed by the head of a large modern library than is conveyed in the title of librarian. The change also carries an advancement in salary from \$6,000 to \$7,500.

The second change that was made related to Frank H. Chase, Ph. D., who has been known as custodian of Bates hall and who is now officially designated as reference librarian. It is the further authorization of the Board of trustees that Mr Chase is to have direct charge of all matters pertaining to the use of books and such other executive work as may be entrusted to him by the director. There was a change also in Mr Chase's salary, which was raised to \$4,000 a year.

Mr Chase has been connected with the Boston public library for the past dozen years as custodian of special libraries, giving chief attention to the work of the fine arts department and later to the reference use of books in Bates hall. This brought him a wide acquaintance with all branches of the library's affairs, thereby giving him a special outlook in the new duties he will be called on to perform.

Mr Belden's friends will rejoice with him in this larger opportunity that opens before him to do the larger work which it has been in his heart to do for many years. There is much to be said for the change in title from librarian to director. A public library in a metropolitan city calls for executive ability, business acumen, administrative knowledge and personal equipment, as well as acquaintance with and appreciation of books as literature and books as tools. All this, Mr Belden has in a marked degree and the already famous history which has attended the veteran public library of America will be by so much enlarged and advanced by the opportunity in hand.

Mr Chase is not so well known as many a less able man in the library field but a growing acquaintance among his co-workers reveals the fact that he is a scholar of more than ordinary attainments, with the strongest instincts of a gentleman, and a growing professional pride and ability that will carry him far. Mr Chase is a graduate of Yale, with Phi Beta Kappa rank, 1894, receiving for actual work done the degree of Ph. D. from Yale in 1896. He also took graduate courses in Paris and at the University of Berlin, is master of a number of languages and for many years before entering the service of the Boston public library was a college teacher of English. His career as head of the department of English, at Beloit college, Wisconsin, gives him an acquaintance and following outside the limits of Boston, in which he is held in high esteem.

The Board of trustees of the Boston public library is to be congratulated on this example of its progressive spirit and realization of what is due the library, not only in view of the

splendid work which it is doing in Boston at present, but also on account of the long and honorable history which has been maintained by the library.

Doubtful Publicity

AN unusual amount of library publicity is found in the columns of newspapers over the country, which must mean that libraries and newspapers are reaching the point of understanding their helpfulness to each other and their common duty to the same public. The tone of the writing, whether coming from the library or from the rooms of newspapers, is illuminating in many respects, not the least of which is the increase in understanding of what the ideals of library service are. There still appears, however, in a good many newspapers, the spirit of appeal that can hardly be less than useless if, indeed, it is not a repelling force. In many instances there is a savor of the old-time Sunday school appeal of "We do this for your benefit; it is hardly a right degree of appreciation that you do not come and use it; and if you should come and use it once, you would never be without it."

People will use a library if it has something which they want; there is no reason why they should use it otherwise. It is impossible to make people good or intelligent or patriotic from the outside.

A recent newspaper in a town of 26,000 population, having a public library for 50 years, states that the library is not patronized as it should be,

altho the trustees are doing all the finances will permit to make it one of the best libraries in the region. "The reading room is open every day, except Saturday and Sunday, from 8 to 11:30 a. m., and from 1 to 3:45 p. m., when the public is welcome to the library for reading purposes only.

Some say the town is not well supplied with literary information. This shows that those who think so, are not well versed with the ——— public library which is open to the public at the times stated above.

There are three periods for issuing books. The periods for the general public are from 7 to 8 on Saturday evening of each week; for school children, from 4:15 to 5:30 each Thursday, and for business people, each Tuesday from 2 to 4 p. m.

If these rules are carefully observed and the public will appreciate the privileges extended to them in the circulation of the library, its value to the community can easily be doubled. This increase will be highly appreciated by the library trustees."

Such a situation would be ludicrous if it were not pitiable. What sort of library spirit animates library authorities in a state or city that produces and maintains such a situation is a matter on which there might be a difference of opinion.

Death of Hon. C. D. Hine

The obituary of the late Hon Charles D. Hine, for more than half his life connected with the public schools of Connecticut and, at the time of his death, chairman of the Connecticut public library committee, is given in the September number of *Connecticut Schools*.

To outline Mr Hine's professional life is to outline the development of education in Connecticut for the past 40 years. To him is due the Connecticut system of professional supervision in rural schools, the training of teachers in service, the development of the public library as an educational force, the Connecticut attendance and employment laws, the work of adult education and of vocational education.

To the cause of the children of the state and, indeed, of all children, Mr Hine devoted his life. He worked untiringly and without thought of reward for equality of educational opportunity. He sought to give educational opportunity to every child, whether he lived in a city or in the most remote rural district. The advancement of teachers, too, was ever in his thoughts. He was an earnest advocate of the normal school, the summer school and the training of teachers in service. He never ceased to point out the value of professional reading and study.

He was a man of genial personality, of intense loyalty and unswerving friendship. What he believed he advocated with enthusiasm and courage. He gave to Connecticut not only a lifetime of work, but a lifetime of accomplishment and of service.

Commissioner Hine was one of the most devoted supporters of the small libraries of his state as educational institutions of merit and gave time and means to their development.

The proposed new charter under discussion in Minneapolis, Minn., makes provision for the elimination of some of the numerous boards in that city. The interesting point for librarians is that it is proposed that the School board is to be continued and will take over the affairs of the Library board, which is to be abolished.

Thus doth history repeat itself.

A Copyright Crisis

The copyright fight of the Sixty-eighth Congress is on. For the fifth time since 1890 the American publisher challenges the public's right to import without his consent a foreign book which he handles here—a right that is older than the republic and world-wide.

As ever in the past, two years' criticism has modified the challenge materially. 1) The claim of the right to prevent acquisition of the foreign original is withdrawn, but it must be secured through the American publisher. 2) To obtain such control of importation, he must manufacture an actual American edition. 3) This restriction is removed from a) books in foreign languages, b) second-hand copies, c) works for the United States, d) works in raised characters for the blind, e) foreign newspapers and magazine, f) collections bought *en bloc* for libraries, and g) books in the traveler's baggage.

Welcome as are these recessions from absolutism, the librarian will be quick to see that the purchase of English books would prove a tedious, perilous and costly business. Whenever he saw such a volume advertised he must ask two questions before venturing to make an order: 1) Is there an American edition? 2) Is it in print? He could not afford to guess, for the penalty of a misstep is ugly. So, to be certain, no matter how complete and timely his bibliographical apparatus, he would write to the Copyright office. If the reply were "Yes," his order would go to the reprinter, who could charge at pleasure.

Unfortunate as is the challenge, the time of its presentation is even more so. An entirely different project was afoot. The United States had a chance at last to qualify for the International copyright union. The only thing needed was repeal of the requirement, in the case of an English work, to print here as condition of copyright.

To this, authors, printers, librarians and organized education in general readily assented. The publishers balked, unless given control of importation, as indicated.

While they balked, Canada lost patience and struck in retaliation at our manufacturing clause. Their measure becomes operative, January 1, 1924. To meet this situation the Copyright office has drawn a bill, at the instance of the State department, repealing that clause as applied to foreigners and thus fitting us for Berne, without otherwise disturbing present conditions. The American Library Association, with its thirteen allied organizations, will champion this measure in Congress. The publishers will seek to amend by inserting an anti-importation clause. The Authors' league, firm at first, has given way. So, too, the printers, told that monopoly will increase American manufacture, since, say the publishers, "We can thus offer English writers larger royalties to induce cis-Atlantic editions," and the public will meet the cost of double production.

The responsibility of the American Library Association is almost unexampled. It fights the battle of the cultivated reader the world over and must keep the faith.

Every library in the United States ought to act. When the bills are introduced, the call will be sounded.

M. LLEWELLYN RANEY, Chairman
CARL L. CANNON
ASA DON DICKINSON
HILLER C. WELLMAN
PURD B. WRIGHT

A. L. A. Committee on book-buying

Reference Library in Pension Bureau
Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Our library has proved a valuable aid to applicants for pension and a safeguard to the government. In many of the soldiers' claims the question of identity is an important factor, and before they can be favorably considered the Bureau must determine be-

yond a doubt that the applicant is the soldier who rendered the service alleged.

It often becomes necessary to place applications in the hands of a special examiner in the field to further test the claimant's identity. The library furnishes information with which to test the knowledge of the applicant in regard to the organization in which he claims to have served, its officers, its various stations, movements, skirmishes, and battles in which it participated. This information in the hands of the special examiner has often been of great assistance.

The library is a safeguard for the government in testing the accuracy of statements that appear in depositions, and in other papers filed in pension claims.

We now have 2,825 reference books, 500 pamphlets and more than 1,000 "historical sketches" compiled in the library. There are many incomplete sets of state reports, rosters, and histories of organizations, brigades, divisions and corps, including skirmishes, battles, etc.

The saving that these histories will be to the government in years to come cannot be measured by a money value.

The Pension bureau is a vast reservoir of information with reference to all wars in which the United States has been engaged which will remain as a permanent record for coming generations.

It is believed that the records of the office now contain more valuable and interesting war history than can be found in any other one place, and it is hoped that Congress will soon recognize the need of making some provision for the preservation, classification and indexing of this valuable historical information.

In this connection it may be proper to add that all books now in the library have come as a donation from comrades, their widows, and others, principally as a result of an article published in this city stating that donations of the kind would be acceptable.

A Semi-Centennial

The Public library of Evanston, Illinois, was 50 years old, July 3. It seemed expedient to those most interested to postpone the celebration of the anniversary until after the summer vacation period. Accordingly, the week of October 15 was assigned to the celebration of the event.

A peculiarity of the public of Evanston has been a long time interest in its library as an institution and it is perhaps easier there than anywhere else in Illinois to create an interest and sentiment of good will toward the library. This interest, however, for many years, expressed itself only in the use of the library and kindly expressions toward its effective work, and even this was largely due to the extremely fine work which was done by its first trained librarian, Mary B. Lindsay, who served the library for twenty-three years, giving to it a fine spirit, effective service and, sad to relate, verily her own life. It has been believed by many of those who knew Miss Lindsay and her work that, due to her gentle and retiring spirit, her untimely death was caused by the sacrifice she made in carrying out her ideals for a high state of efficiency with an inadequate fund for staff, books and extension, all of which the public ate up with avidity without once making any but perfunctory efforts toward relieving the strain. The tragedy of Miss Lindsay's death, however, and the public discussion which followed it, woke up the community to the situation and a new phase of interest on the part of the public toward the library began, which has continued until today. Hardly another community in Illinois is so thoroly saturated with what may be called genuine library spirit as is the city of Evanston.

The choice of the next librarians, for a short while, M. A. Skarstedt, and later, Ida F. Wright, was wise and, with the new spirit, the situation has developed admirably in interest, support and attitude toward the Evan-

ston public library until the latter may be said to be a real educational force in the community. Much might be said of what it has accomplished, what is being accomplished and the outlook for the future in educational lines, but this is the story of the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

When the fact of the celebration was made known, many citizens and nearly every organization in the city—commercial, social, religious, educational, and even sporting clubs, asked for the privilege of participating in the occasion. It was wisely decided to make use of this enthusiasm to enlarge the reference department of the library by gifts of important or expensive reference books which the library desired. Both before, during and after the week of celebration, wonderfully beautiful and useful books were given to the library and still continue to come in. These will bear a special book-plate and will long be a joy to the library.

On Tuesday, October 16, the Woman's club entertained with three sessions to crowded houses when the cultural development of Evanston was presented in the form of addresses by those who are leaders in education, art and music in the community.

In the evening, the library was open, brilliantly lighted both inside and out, thru the courtesy of the electric light company, which placed strong spot lights on the grounds and strung bulbs everywhere, particularly along the square leading to the Woman's club building where literary and musical celebrities whose homes are in Evanston discussed the development of their time or their own work.

The library building was handsomely decorated with flowers, gifts of the florists of the city, with autumn foliage presented and arranged by the Outdoor Art club of the city, while music by the Northwestern glee club and prominent musicians of the community was provided. The mayor of Evanston and several other prominent citizens made addresses. Members of

the library staff showed the guests around the building and served punch. Open house was observed during the entire week.

One of the most interesting phases of the celebration was that prepared by the school children, particularly by those in the grades. This took a pageant form where children above the fourth grade were dressed and drilled to perform the parts of favorite characters in children's books—children from Dickens, Wiggin, Alcott, Boutet de Monvel, Bulfinch, Cervantes, Greenway and Pyle.

Edith C. Moon, director of children's reading for the school and for the library, and Mrs Albert Koch arranged a playlet in which one pupil from each school took part. The characters portrayed were titles of volumes given to the library by the pupils. The children formed in line and marched thru the entire library, thus giving a chance to the visitors to see the children and the children an opportunity to see all parts of the building.

The week's celebration was the event of the community and the effects of it, for a long time, will be far reaching.

Cleveland's Gala Day

The laying of the corner stone of the new Main library building, Cleveland, Ohio, took place, October 23, with appropriate ceremonies. Since the laying of the stone coincided with the visit to Cleveland of the late English premier, David Lloyd-George, he was an honored guest of the occasion and delivered an address in which he again pleaded for sympathetic coöperation of the English speaking people. He paid a high tribute to the American people as he had seen them. The speaker was introduced by Hon Newton D. Baker, late secretary of war, in a very appropriate speech.

Mr Baker said in part:

We are today to perform the successor of an ancient rite. In the laying of corner stones of great public structures in the olden times it was the habit to offer sacrifices, but in the corner stone of this building there

will be the names of those who have contributed to and furthered the building of the great structure which is to rest here. The site selected for this library building is at the very center of this great city and I think may typify to us all the fact that we place this great instrument of learning in the very heart of the people.

Our colonial ancestors brought with them the privilege of free worship of God according to the dictates of every man's conscience. Their next effort at social activity was the building of schoolhouses, so that they coupled religion as typifying devotion with education as typifying sound information, as the two basal stones of the great democratic structure they were seeking to build. With every hour of the great democracy's growth, with all the increase of its intricacy and in the character of its duties, those two great qualities remain necessary on the part of the people of any free country, devotion to the ideals and traditions of that country; and then, in order that democracy may be wise and efficient, there must be accurate information.

The schools and colleges in this country, more than any other in the world, are available at the cost of the state to all the people, but in order that education may not stop with the more formal accomplishment, in order that it may continue to be the basis of the people's thinking, we build great libraries filled with the literature of life for the information of the public upon all subjects upon which the people are required to act in a public way.

In a very real way, this public library is not only a servant of the people but thru the people, a servant of the state and a servant of an increasingly useful and beautiful civilization. It is a cause for great happiness and the consummation of a wish long entertained, the establishment of a central library here in the heart of the city. It is an instrument which always ought to have not only your sympathetic support but your constant and active use.

Mr Baker closed his address by paying a glowing tribute to the great man who was the guest of the city and in a most graceful fashion presented the Rt. Honorable David Lloyd-George, former prime minister of the British empire, great citizen of the world and statesman.

The exercises were in charge of Mr A. A. Stearns, chairman of the Building committee, who made the announcements. Miss Linda A. Eastman, librarian, stated the contents of the sealed box which was placed

within the corner stone. President John G. White, after a brief but impressive address, laid the corner stone using a silver trowel for the purpose.

An immense number of people had gathered for the exercises, entirely filling the space for blocks around. The amplifiers which had been installed made the addresses audible and telephone and radio connections carried them to vaster audiences thruout the country, word having been received from as far as Red Wing, Minn., and Brookline, Mass., that the entire program had been heard.

The weather was beautiful and the festivity a complete success. A number of congratulatory letters and telegrams were received by the librarian and trustees, while the number of similar messages sent to the radio broadcasting station indicate that rarely had a program had a larger audience.

Hospital Books

At a recent meeting of the Iowa nurses' association, at Waterloo, the Public library of that city, under the direction of Maria C. Brace, librarian, prepared a small pamphlet setting forth the service the library is prepared to render to nurses and physicians of the city. The list was distributed at the meeting in the hope that both physicians and nurses would receive a better understanding of the opportunity for help which the public library offers them.

List of books on nursing

- Brainerd**, Evolution of public health nursing, '22.
Brubaker, Text book on physiology, '22.
Burke, Acute cases in moral medicine, '22.
Finney, Moral problems in hospital practice, '22.
Flagg, Patients' point of view, '23.
Gibson, Clinical laboratory technic for nurses, '22.
Mitchell, Doctor and patient, '04.
Paul, Nursing in the acute infectious fevers, '23.
Short, Physiology in surgical and general practice, '22.
Thomas, Successful physician, '23.

New Schemes of Arrangement

A letter from Mr. Wheeler opens as follows:

I do not know whether the inclosed classification schemes are of sufficient interest or value to be worth while running in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, so I leave it to your judgment.

That tribunal is of the opinion they are quite worth giving.—*Editor*.

When we undertook the reorganization of the Hackley public library nearly two years ago, we found that we not only had to revise the classification in many sections, but that we also had to buy book stock for many sections. Among these was a section on business, office work, and so on. When it came to classifying and shelving four or five hundred volumes in this field, the decimal classification seemed altogether inadequate. The new eleventh edition had not yet been published and the D. C. offered only 651, 652, 653, 657, 658 and 659, without further subdivision; and separated by 654, 655 and 656. We saw no reason for this arbitrary insertion of telegraphy, printing, and transportation, in the midst of the business and office methods, nor did the business group seem at all adequately subdivided. Hence, we abandoned numbers 651, 652 and 653 altogether, grouping all the business and office material in the three groups—657, 658 and 659, subdividing as in the inclosed schedule. For our purpose, at least, this still is more satisfactory than the new revised D. C. expansion because it groups all the material together on the shelves in a logical arrangement and does not carry the subdivision to so many decimal places.

- 657 **Office equipment and methods**
 .1 Correspondence, business English
 .2 Filing, records, indexing (see also 029.5)
 .3 Statistics and graphs (instead of 310)
 .4 Shorthand and stenography
 .5 Typewriting
 .6 Secretarial work; private secretary
 .7 Bookkeeping (including texts on bkpg. and acctg.)
 .8 Accountancy (including factory and cost accounting)
 .9 Auditing

- 658 Business** (including business ethics and psychology)
- .1 Choice of vocation; vocational guidance
 - .2 Personal efficiency; "Success" books.
 - .3 Employment and employment management
 - .35 Analyzing character
 - .4 Industrial efficiency and scientific management (including factory organization and management)
 - .5 Purchasing
 - .6 Selling; salesmanship
 - .65 Credits and collections
 - .7 Retail trade; storekeeping
 - .71 Commission business, agencies, chain stores
 - .72 Department stores
 - .73 Mail order
 - .74
 - .75
 - .8 Real estate business
 - .9

- 659 Advertising**
- .2 Window trimming and displays
 - .7 House organs
 - .9 Rotary, Kiwanis, and similar clubs (This enables us to meet the requests that the library maintain a permanent "Rotary shelf," etc., without disorganizing the class and shelf arrangement.)

See also

- 322 Banks and banking
- 511 Business arithmetic
- 347.7 Business law and legal forms
- 380 Commerce
- 910 Commercial geography
- 332.45 Foreign exchange
- 382 Foreign trade
- 368 Insurance
- 385 Railroad transportation
- 744.6 Show card writing and sign painting
- 332.6 Stocks and bonds
- 332.14 Trust companies

We found it, and I have elsewhere found it, rather confusing and annoying to have all the sports grouped on the shelves in 796 and 797, without any further separation among major sports. A library of any size can well have five or six shelves full of these two classes, among which the reader has to search to pick out here and there the books on any one sport. Hence, our subdivision of these two classes as in the inclosed outline.

796 Outdoor sports, cycling

- .1 Winter sports—skating, skiing, snowshoeing, etc
- .2 Ice boating

- .3 Camping, tramping, hiking, etc., motor camping
- .4 Mountaineering
- .5 Archery, quoits, croquet
- .6 Fencing
- .7 Tennis
- .8 Golf
- .9 Swimming and diving, water sports

797 Athletic sports

- .1 Track and field athletics
- .2 Canoeing, boating, yachting
- .3 Boxing; wrestling
- .4 Football
- .5 Basketball
- .6 Baseball
- .65 Cricket
- .7 Lacrosse
- .8 Polo

The Shakespeare *Special Scheme* is one which we borrowed from a similar scheme at the Missouri school of mines

Shakespeare special scheme

- 822.33 A Complete works—Cutter by name of edition or editor
- B Collections of dramas—including variorum, etc
- C Single plays and poems—Cutter by title, followed by editor's initial
- D Selections—Cutter by editor
- E Stories and paraphrases
- F Bibliography
- G Biography: books about Shakespeare
- H Authorship: Bacon controversy
- K Characters
- L Concordances
- M Dictionaries
- P Shakespeare's stage and theatre, etc
- R Religion and morals
- S Sources
- T Study and teaching
- V Miscellaneous criticism

These things were done more or less in a hurry and under pressure, and they would have been done better had we taken more time and consulted with other catalogers, but we had to devise schemes for these groups and do it in a hurry, and these are the results.

HAROLD L. WHEELER
Librarian

Hackley public library
Muskegon, Mich.

A book may be as big a thing as a battle.—*Disraeli*.

Chicago Conference on Importation of German Books

A score of librarians from the Middle West met at the John Crerar library, October 15, for an informal conference on German book prices. Theodore W. Koch, librarian of Northwestern university, gave a survey of the happenings of recent years in the German book trade.

During the last years of the war there was a noticeable scarcity of books for the retail dealer. He was met on all sides with the statements "sold out" or "only partial delivery can be made." The demand for books seemed to increase rather than decline. The prices asked seemed immaterial. But the German booksellers eventually learned that they were doing too much business. They found their shelves empty with no chance of their being able to restock with the right kind of books at the right prices. New books were priced too high and desirable antiquarian material was difficult to procure. In many instances, publishers were unable to reprint editions sold out unless they used paper of much inferior grade and bound their books in boards instead of cloth or leather. The publishers were reluctant to increase the retail prices of books, as tho they stood apart from the general economic conditions. Consequently, the retail book trade had too narrow a margin of profit even tho the discount allowed to the retailer had been increased. A recent German investigator is of the opinion that all signs seem to point to the fact that with a further depreciation of the mark, German book prices will also be influenced and that we are at the foot of a further rise in prices rather than at the climax of a price wave, but that book prices which are far above the pre-war levels will be subject to a correction.

Mr Hans Harrassowitz of Leipzig, to listen to whom the conference was called, agreed that the time for getting books at the extremely low prices of

the early part of 1922 had passed. The Germans have realized that they have sold their merchandise too cheap. They now realize their folly. They have been the losers all this time. While prices have been too low, Mr Harrassowitz does not think that prices will go excessively high, but that they will rather strike a fair average. The whole German industry is now going on a gold basis. The price of paper, of labor and of finished books are all calculated on the gold basis. Until recently the base figure multiplied by the key figure, which was changing from day to day, gave one the German or domestic price. The base figure was the Swiss franc. This method of figuring worked fairly well as long as the cost of production in Germany was low. Now the rule is to change the base figure to one and a quarter Swiss francs, or twenty-two and one-half cents for the United States. Some scientific publishers have been estimating the base figure at 24 cents. This means that a scientific book with the base figure of 20 would cost the American purchaser \$4.80.

The base figure has been supposed to give the equivalent of the pre-war gold mark price. It is admitted that in many instances the base price has been higher than the pre-war price in marks. The key figure is fixed by the Börsenverein, while the base figure is fixed by the publisher. Since the key figure was too low for some publishers, it was necessary for them to raise the base figure. Latterly, after everything was based on a gold standard, the publishers found it necessary to reduce somewhat the base figure, for the key figure had mounted so high as to make the resultant domestic price prohibitive for Germans because it was higher even than the gold price. The key price has been made lower in order to favor the German book-buyers. Now since the cost of production has reached a higher gold level, the publishers say that they cannot afford to sell their books to the German public

at these low figures. The Börsenverein aims to keep the key figure sufficiently high so that the domestic price will be about the same as the foreign price. Inasmuch as the situation changes day by day in Germany, the key figure changes also. The key figure never quite catches up with the value of the dollar. Consequently, prices for German purchasers have been lagging behind foreign prices, usually about two days behind.

The whole German economic system is just on the point of changing. Everyone is trying to start on a new gold basis. Hitherto calculations were being made in paper marks in order to avoid unemployment—which would have meant bolshevism. In order to avoid unemployment the attempt was made to keep standards of living on a comparatively low level. Prices for all commodities were extremely low. This was especially true of books, prices for which in many instances reached so low a level as to enable foreigners to buy German books at a mere fraction of their pre-war price.

The income of German libraries has decreased with the depreciation of the mark. The publisher is therefore sometimes moved to present to German institutional libraries items for which they are in need and for which they cannot afford to pay. In the case of one chemical manual announced at \$24 and then later raised to \$45, copies of which were presented by the publisher to German libraries, objection was raised by American purchasers that they were compelled to pay for the presentation copies through the increased price. Chemists complained of the "let America pay for it" attitude.

But few people in Germany can afford to subscribe to periodicals. Consequently the publisher has raised his price to foreign subscribers. He tries to get from abroad the money that he used to be able to count on from Germany. One highly specialized journal which formerly had 450 subscribers now has only 75. The

publisher, therefore, has had to raise the price from \$8 to \$24, but his total receipts from subscriptions have at the same time dropped from \$3600 to \$1800.

Scientific journals do not repay the publisher for the amount of time and money expended on them. They are, however, a source of justifiable pride and prestige. The publisher who has issued a periodical for a long time is loth to give it up. The main advantage accruing to him is the contact it brings with authors and subscribers, but he must charge much of the cost of carrying the periodicals to his overhead expense account.

One American university library, which has made a comparison of prices of 100 different German journals subscribed for in 1914 and 1923, found that the total amount spent for these 100 journals was about the same in 1923 as in 1914. Of course there are many journals which are higher priced now, but also there are many which are lower, so the average remains about the same. The higher priced journals are mostly scientific and mathematical journals, while the lower priced journals are the historical and philosophical.

Movie Stories

The National congress of Mothers and Parent-teacher associations recommends the following films for the family. They have been reviewed by the Better Films committee and afford clean and wholesome recreation.

For the family, from ten years up:

A chapter in her life. Story based on Clara Louise Burnham's *Jewel*. A little girl wins her prudish grandfather's love and restores happiness in a discordant home. A picture all children can see without harm.

Constance Talmadge in Dulcy. The story of a young and dumb wife who decides to help her husband with his business but succeeds in doing more hindering than helping. Clean, except where she acts as a simpleton stenographer and the men at the conference cast knowing glances at one another.

The drivin' fool. A rollicking romance of a transcontinental automobile race with

enough wholesome action to please the whole family. The finest kind of genuine amusement. Recommended for the family.

For the family, from high-school age up:

Rupert of Hentzau. A sequel to *The prisoner of Zenda*, but liable to disappoint those who looked forward to seeing the same cast in the second picture. For high-school age.

Three wise fools. A screen version of the stage play wherein a girl is adopted by three old bachelors. For high-school age.

For adults only:

Little Old New York. Of some historical interest because of its scenes of Robert Fulton and his steamboat, Clermont, but is worth six reels and not eleven.

Scaramouche. From Sabatini's novel of the French revolution. An elaborate production, starring Alice Terry and Ramon Novarro.

If winter comes. From the novel of A. S. M. Hutchinson. The picture was photographed in England. The film follows the book perfectly and is a remarkably worth-while production. Lead played by Percy Marmont.

Ruggles of Red Gap. Could be recommended except for drinking scenes and scenes showing the cigarette-smoking Ma Pettingill. One of the funniest comedy-dramas of the season.

Where the North begins. A somewhat conventional story of the North, but saved by the almost human acting of the German police dog, Rin Tin Tin. A display of remarkable animal training, but altogether spoiled by the brutality of the story.

Canadian Notes

Mr Adam Strohm, the chief librarian of Detroit, visited the Toronto public library and the Ontario library training school on October 17, and spoke on Ideals.

The Toronto public library has issued a bibliography of Canadian books with the imprint of 1921 and 1922. Arrangements have been made for making this the official list of the book trade in Canada—a new issue to appear in February of each year. Also the same library has issued a bibliography of the maps in the reference library. It is specially rich in early Canadian maps.

Mr W. O. Carson, inspector of public libraries for Ontario, has published a list of Canadian libraries and their librarians, a very much needed work. It can be had on application to him at the Parliament building, Toronto.

The libraries of Montreal arranged for an exhibition of early manuscripts, etc., in connection with the celebration of the Parkman centenary in November.

A list of Canadian books was published by the Department of education, Ontario, during Canadian book week. The list was compiled by the reference division of the Toronto public library as "a study outline for the people." The foreword is as follows:

This list . . . is intended to help the general reader, for which reason most out-of-print, extremely learned and highly technical books are omitted. Many books of travel and description, reminiscences, and all novels and poetical works are saved for another reading list. Having provided two excuses, the compilers emulate Dr Johnson's candour and offer pure ignorance as the cause for other omissions.

Alice D. Cruikshank, N. Y. S., '03-04, has resigned from the cataloging staff of the library of Ohio state university, Columbus, and is now engaged in a circulating library venture of her own in Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.

The Journal of the National Education Association, V. 12, No. 9, November, 1923, contains a list of 60 reference books for grades 1-9. These books are taken from the accredited list of books for children issued by the A. L. A. ('22, 235p., \$1.25). A list of important new educational books published in the United States is also given which is commendable for its up-to-dateness as well as its wise inclusion of many subjects.

Index to Volume 28

The index for Volume 28 will be enclosed in the next (January) number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

American Library Association

A high water mark of the A. L. A. publicity business was reached in October, 1923, when the sales of A. L. A. publications amounted to \$6041. The largest month's sales in any previous year was for January, 1922, the figure being \$3823.

Dr E. C. Richardson, chairman of the Committee on bibliography, will represent his committee at various conferences which he expects to attend in Europe during the next several months.

The committee on Work with the foreign-born has been asked to prepare a series of foreign language purchase lists for publication by the A. L. A.

The A. L. A. is one of 88 organizations which has agreed to ask for a referendum vote of its members on the peace plan which receives the award offered by Edward Bok. Every member of the association will receive a summary of the plan and a coupon for voting, probably toward the end of January. Librarians who are willing to distribute copies among their friends and patrons are asked to communicate with Miss Esther Everett Lape, American Peace Award, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City.

A hospital library exhibit was shown at the American Medical association meeting in California and at the meeting of the American Hospital association in Milwaukee. In both cases it was under the personal supervision of a local librarian who distributed the leaflets, The Hospital library.

At the American Prison congress in Boston an exhibit on prison libraries, assembled by Miss E. K. Jones, was shown. Sarah B. Askew talked on prison libraries. The prison exhibit is now at A. L. A. headquarters and available for the use of any interested group.

A gift of \$7,500 a year for two years has been made by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the American Library Association for use of the American library in Paris.

This gift, and others recently received, amounting to several thousand dollars, will enable the library to improve and extend its staff and its collection of books and magazines. The development of an Information department which will increase the library's service to America, is also contemplated.

The following Recruiting committee has been appointed:

Bessie Sargeant-Smith, chairman, Cleveland, Ohio; Gertrude E. Andrus, Seattle, Wash.; Elsie L. Baechtold, New York City; Irving R. Bundy, Jefferson City, Mo.; Charles H. Compton, St. Louis, Mo.; Jennie M. Flexner, Louisville, Ky.; Lucy T. Fuller, Houston, Texas; Mary Emogene Hazeltine, Madison, Wis.; W. E. Henry, Seattle, Wash.; Louise B. Krause, Chicago; Annie A. Pollard, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Ernest J. Reece, New York City; Grace D. Rose, Des Moines, Iowa; Charles H. Stone, Nashville, Tenn.; Sabra W. Vought, Albany, N. Y.; Althea H. Warren, San Diego, Cal.

Committee on fiftieth anniversary

The following have been appointed by the chairman of the Committee of 25 to form an executive committee: Mary Eileen Ahern, C. F. Belden, W. W. Bishop, A. E. Bostwick, Milton J. Ferguson, G. B. Utley, J. L. Wheeler, J. T. Jennings, *ex officio*, C. B. Roden, chairman.

A meeting of this executive committee in Chicago on October 13 was attended by only a few, but a useful tho informal conference resulted in considerable progress toward the development of plans. It is practically certain that the 1926 conference of the A. L. A. will be more or less international, in point of attendance if not in the character of the program. The latter will no doubt be largely devoted to a historical retrospect of American librarianship. Recent reports from England reveal great interest in this forthcoming event, and a considerable representation of British colleagues is already fairly well assured. Subcommittees are proceeding with plans for anniversary publications and an exposition of library progress. Further meetings will be held at the mid-winter conference in January.

Pacific Northwest Meeting

The fourteenth annual conference of the Pacific Northwest library association, at Corvallis, Oregon, had a registration of 106 members, a smaller attendance than usual owing to the fact that the place of the meeting was at a greater distance than usual from the centers of library work. The conference, however, was equal to any of its predecessors. The program was built around problems of medium-sized libraries and possessed coherence, continuity and professional value. The speakers were interesting and the discussions showed unusual alertness and variety of viewpoint.

Dr Willis J. Kerr, president of the Oregon agricultural college, in his welcome address, emphasized the value of books as the supreme method of disseminating knowledge and paid a tribute to libraries and librarians as the means toward greater information and recreation, with the creation of wider sympathies and better human understanding, which are even more valuable than direct education so achieved.

John Ridington, librarian of the University of British Columbia, responded on behalf of the association.

The presidential address of Ethel R. Sawyer of the Library association of Portland, registered a wide, sympathetic outlook in the field of knowledge with its viewpoint of intelligence backed by an understanding heart. (*Miss Sawyer's address in full is to be found in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 28:413-20.*)

Reports

The presentation of various reports gave an idea of the quality and extent of organized work. The treasurer's report showed a satisfactory balance of \$405. A report on membership showed an addition of 124 members and nine institutional members.

Tribute was paid to the valuable work of E. Ruth Rockwood in the preparation and publication of Books on the Pacific Northwest for smaller libraries. Coöperative lists of news-

papers and maps were suggested as the next most useful bibliographical enterprise.

The Committee on subscription books reported on its work and the coöperation which had been started with the Subscription Book Publishers' association. A valuable effect of this was the representations of the committee on the "give-away" exploitation methods which the Publishers' association had referred for report to its Committee on business ethics.

With regard to books for the blind, the publication of a union catalog, at an expense of \$345, to be shared by 12 libraries within the association's territory, was reported. It was noted that the Washington state library had contributed nearly half the expense of printing. The high cost of books in braille was noted and the copying of books in type for the blind by volunteer workers interested in their welfare was discussed.

An interesting report was that on books in chain stores. It was recommended that the committee's findings be laid before the Executive board of the A. L. A. in the hope that that body would bring before the home offices of the chain stores the opportunity presented and also that the A. L. A. committee should consider the preparation of a cheap edition of good books for purchase by chain stores.

Much discussion surrounded the various reports.

As guests of the Oregon state agricultural college at a banquet in the Home economics building, alike in cuisine and service, in sociability and enjoyment, the visitors found it a thoroughly delightful function.

Community drama

Better use of leisure was the topic of the second session. Elizabeth Barnes, Oregon agricultural college, discussed Community drama, with suggestions for choosing good plays. She stated that community plays are natural and primitive forms of expres-

sion, bringing together, to achieve a result, people of different ideas, training, tastes and experience. The commercial theatre, with the making of money as its main object, has driven away thinking people whose culture and ideas are often superior to those of professional actors. All that is necessary to start a community play is a group of interested people and a suitable play. The next step is to choose a suitable leader. "Coaching," said Miss Barnes, "is the death of art. A play should be directed, not coached. Plays should not exhibit personality; they should be chosen for their ideas rather than for characters. The fun should arise from situations and climaxes in the play itself, not from individual stunts. The dramatic episodes should be approached with sincerity and simplicity by letting the imagination of the actor play around until he fully seizes the possibilities of both character and situation.

The main concern of those today interested in the community theatre is to find suitable plays, how to stage plays satisfactorily and cheaply, and how to build community playhouses.

As an aid in these matters, Miss Barnes gave a list of plays suitable for amateur presentation and that offer few problems in staging by inexperienced groups.

Frances Bowman, Library association of Portland, discussed community plays from the librarian's standpoint. She started with the days when, in a country town in Illinois, she told stories to a group of children, a novel experiment for those days and, as an inducement, promised the children that they should act some of the stories they would hear. Miss Bowman told how they used baled hay for the walls of Troy and how the historic wooden horse was improvised from tools used by a local carpenter. Fathers and big brothers made helmets and shields and all the books on Greek costumes were borrowed from the library that mothers and sisters might design

tunics and mantles. Tho this initial effort was more a game than a pageant, it had the one essential of community effort—coöperation. In a great pageant, such as St. Louis, all the resources of the library are taxed to the limit, but pageantry need not be on a grand scale nor its subject matter limited to local or general historical episodes. Its essentials are its democratic spirit, its coöperative character and that the largest possible number should, in some form, participate. The coöperation of art, music and English teachers and physical culture instructors would result in a really artistic presentation of such a play as Millay's *The lamp and the bell*, or Mackay's *Forest princess*.

Among the conclusions reached by Miss Bowman was that when the communities of America have learned, as now they are learning, to play; when they adopt, as now they are beginning to, a democratic attitude toward the drama, the community theatre municipally owned will be no longer a dream but a reality and the library has a part to play in hastening the coming of that day.

In the discussion which grew up about the proposed survey of library personnel, presented by J. T. Jennings, librarian, Public library, Seattle, Washington, objection was made to the A. L. A. coöperating with the Institute of government research because of the leaning of the Institute toward civil service. The point was made that the Institute would proceed with or without the coöperation of the A. L. A. and it would be better for the latter to direct than to ignore the undertaking. The result would impose nothing on the A. L. A. or individual libraries and the report would not be published until approved by the A. L. A.

Western coöperation

In a discussion of the spirit of coöperation between various library organizations in the Western territory, Susan T. Smith, president of the Cali-

fornia association, was enthusiastic in supporting the idea of a joint conference because; among other reasons, of the remoteness of Coast librarians from points at which of necessity A. L. A. conferences must be held, these conferences to be held in the years when the A. L. A. meets in the extreme East. Further, she said, the problems of the Pacific Coast libraries are not in all respects identical with those east of the mountains and they are approached in a somewhat different spirit, born of the different character of *cis-montane* conditions and temperament. Regional conferences were the trend of the library conference of the future. National organization of the library movement is necessary and vital but to librarians sub-national gatherings are more valuable than crowded programs, the simultaneous and competitive meetings that constitute the great concourses organized by the national body.

The report of the work of the Public library, El Paso, Texas, prepared by Mrs Maud Darlin Sullivan, showed that that library had been built around the two great industries of the Southwest, mining and farming, both served thru irrigation. A valuable service for the men engaged in these industries had been built up, largely on the basis of government publications, and thru recognized success of this service, added appropriation that was necessary to develop the library's work had been most generously bestowed. The El Paso library has an interest in everything that belongs to its territory—local history, archaeology, botany—these and other interests have been served by collections constantly strengthened and becoming yearly of greater value.

An interesting symposium of experiment and practice on What have you tried out this year? presided over by Ralph Munn, Public library, Seattle, was thoroly enjoyed.

The fourth session was devoted to round-table conferences at which pa-

pers equal to any given at the conference were read, while the discussions were keen and spirited. Formal expression was given to the desire that greater time be allotted at future conferences for round-table discussion.

At the fifth session, hobbies of expert enthusiasts brought out discussion of biography, by Lotta F. Fleek, Portland, and of books for foreigners, by Agnes Hansen, Seattle. Miss Fleek thought that biography satisfies all three motives for reading, inspiration, information and recreation. She found inspiration in the lives of foreigners in America who had conquered strange conditions—Riis, Steiner, Antin, Bok, and James J. Davis. Speaking of the informational value of biography, she said, "From the two lone people in the Garden of Eden thru the ages, the development of history, literature, science, art, and music has been written into biography." Miss Fleek finds recreation and romance in biographies of court personages, princes, princesses, royal robes and glittering jewels.

In discussing Books for foreigners, Miss Hansen spoke particularly of their value as an aid to learning English and preparing for American citizenship. The educational qualifications of foreigners represent as wide a range as any that obtain in the republic itself and varies from absolute illiteracy to the standards of the best European universities.

Lists of books proved by experience to be valuable in the learning of English and preparing for American citizenship, giving the fundamental laws of city, state and nation, explaining the government and institutions of the United States, and also helpful to aliens applying for naturalization, were distributed. Miss Hansen strongly recommended for reading of foreign-born residents the biographies of such Americans as Riis, Ravage, Panunzio, Antin, Pulitzer and others. When a hero of a narrative is of the same nationality as the reader, it is surprising how much is understood

even by one who seems as yet to have only a small reading knowledge of English. Familiarity with the psychology, the racial *milieu*, the aspirations and experiences of the writer, aid in overcoming linguistic difficulties of the text.

Censorship

Minor label books and censorship in general was the subject of a spirited debate. The statement of the issue was: *Resolved*, that conditions surrounding the life and education of "the young person" have so fundamentally changed in recent years that it becomes necessary for librarians to modify their standards or policy in dealing with minor label books and censorship in general. The affirmative side was upheld by Clara Van Sant, Seattle public library, and Anna A. Hall, Umatilla county library. Mary B. Humphrey, University of Oregon library, and Margaret Greene, Seattle public library, were the negative speakers.

Miss Van Sant had examined book lists and found that some libraries put into their stacks as dangerous some of the very books which colleges and even high schools require their students to read. Censorship is dangerous—it limits the sources of information and thereby deforms public opinion. It is of doubtful effectiveness—it automatically arouses antagonism and sets people scheming to circumvent it. The censor is not omnipotent and is, therefore, prejudiced and illogical. One library hides a book which another circulates freely. Books which failed to pass censorship 20 years ago remain in limbo tho their contents would no more shock even the merest high-school miss; moreover, *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* circulates in the best society merely because she resides in the 800 block, while poor *Sister Carrie*, whose experiences were much the same, is kept in the family skeleton closet because she admits she was born in the fiction slums. How can this lack of agreement in high places

do other than discredit library authority with an intelligent public?

General education on sex and sex hygiene has eliminated much false modesty and the present policy of restricting books is alienating the best potential readers of the younger generation.

Miss Hall said that young people are sure to seek information on the facts and implications of sex and it is far better to satisfy their curiosity vicariously thru novels than thru personal experience. Books make clear the results of straying from conventional morality, something which is not clear to the original investigator until it is too late. The impersonal nature of book information is also a point in its favor.

Both negative speakers admitted they were arguing against their personal convictions. Miss Humphrey said that the new youth is filled with the spirit of curiosity. In most cases the urge behind that curiosity is the desire for thrills rather than scientific knowledge. The new youth is animated by the spirit of revolt against convention and restraint of all kinds. This spirit is a healthful one if it has a strong tho unseen directing hand.

Judge J. A. Stratton, for many years a trustee of the Seattle public library, pointed out in a paper that there is a growing class of young authors who are more solicitous of large sales than moral influence. No other appeal reaches everyone as does a love story; if the love story be innocent, so much the better for the moral, but the other kind is apt to furnish more thrills, so the interest of the love story is made to turn on some forbidden relation. Judge Stratton thought that the small or medium sized library should not buy such books. This did not mean that every novel dealing with sex relations should be excluded from the library. Many of the greatest works of fiction derive their greatest interest from such motives but in the greatest

it is the tragedy, not the allurements, of the relation. This distinction may be artificial and arbitrary, but it is a safe standard, tho that no single rule will properly determine every single case must be remembered.

Joanna H. Sprague of Utah brought greetings to the association as did Belle Sweet of the University of Idaho. Vera Snook, Lincoln county library, Montana, spoke with fine enthusiasm of the value of the P. N. L. A. conferences to librarians working under the disadvantage of small populations and smaller appropriations.

The following officers were elected: President, John Ridington, University of British Columbia library; first vice-president, Joanna H. Sprague, Public library, Salt Lake City; second vice-president, Flora M. Case, Public library, Salem; secretary, Ralph Munn, Public library, Seattle; treasurer, Elena A. Clancy, Public library, Tacoma.

Mr Ridington, the new president, in being installed by President Sawyer, paid tribute to the excellent work done by Miss Sawyer and her staff as evidenced by the closing conference. He said the effort to establish a permanent series of triennial meetings would be taken up by the new board. Mr Ridington pointed out, however, that no district meeting could take the place of the A. L. A. conferences because it was thru national professional organization that the ideals and aims of librarians could best be made effective and powerful. Because of this, every librarian and every friend of the library should be an A. L. A. member and give the association loyal support, while in such a conference as the P. N. L. A., professional contacts and professional acquaintances would better advance local library work and solve local library problems.

An automobile trip to Eugene as the guests of the Oregon state university and its librarian was most enjoyable. A delightful luncheon, with refreshment for mind and body, was served.

A Week at The Kittatinny, Delaware Water Gap

Now and then in the lives of busy professional people, there comes a time when they gather together and pause, as it were, at the cross roads. They lay down their burdens, survey the road over which they have traveled, map out the future path and gain inspiration before going farther.

Such a time came to those members of the Pennsylvania library association who attended the conference held at the Delaware Water Gap, October 16-20. Never, perhaps, had the conference been held under more favorable conditions. There at the old Indian gateway between the Coastlands and the Interior, surrounded by mountains of the loveliest Autumn colors, met the largest gathering of all the years of the association. It was a conference marked by a subtle something of peace and inspiration apparent to all.

Dr Donehoo, president of the association, on Wednesday evening, took for his theme the Art of librarianship. He graciously gave credit to all who had helped in preparing the program, and then introduced Dr James Waddell Tupper of Lafayette college, the next speaker. Dr Tupper gave a paper, "Some tendencies of modern fiction," with marked stress on those novelists less often included in the scope of the public library. The custodians of the people's book trails were thus afforded a stimulating vision of the dark and muddy morasses which seem to lurk out beyond the pleasant and sunny paths mapped out by happier minds.

Modern fiction

*Dr Tupper's paper was a most able summing up of some of the tendencies of the modern novel. There is no form of art, said Dr Tupper, that more quickly or more surely reflects contemporary tendencies in life and thought than the novel. It appeals to

*It will be printed in full in the *Pennsylvania Library Association Hand Book*.

a vaster public than the play, its chief competitor, because it does not require a theatre and actors for its delivery, and it can penetrate into remote regions where not even the movies are known. Whatever men do or think is its proper material and wherever men live is its proper scene. It is manifest that any one who would give even a sketch of all the tendencies of modern American fiction would need a volume to do the subject bare justice and all his time to keep in touch with the huge output of the novels that crowd the bookseller's lists. He outlined briefly some of the movements that are stirring in the great body of American fiction:

There may be a plot, but just as likely there will not be more than an autobiography with the novelist thinly disguised as the hero.

There may be a beginning, a middle, and an end, but just as likely the story will be a section of life which knows no beginning, middle, or end. Whatever will give an illusion of life gives form to their work. They are practicing "an emotional expansiveness as contrasted with the classic doctrine of measure and restraint."

Among the authors reviewed were Sinclair Lewis, C. G. Norris, Mr and Mrs Haldeman-Julius, Stephen Benet, Evelyn Scott, and Sherwood Anderson. In content, said Dr Tupper, the chief aim of these writers is to present the truth, and without doubt they are sincere. They are not concerned that it should be truth *and* beauty—so there is often more of the ugliness and vice of the world revealed in their novels than beauty. Most of these novelists are young, and their spirit is that of revolt against the old order. The older generation had passed on to them a world in which there is a great deal of misery and wickedness, and they are voicing their opinion of this generation with its virtues and its vices in no uncertain tones.

When compared with the novelists

of the mid-nineteenth century, those novelists are to these of the present as Masfield's

Stately Spanish galleons coming from the Isthmus
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm-green shores
With a cargo of diamonds,
Emeralds, amethysts.
Topases, and cinnamon, and gold moldors—

is to the

Dirty British Coaster with a salt-caked stack,
Butting through the Channel in the mad March days
With a cargo of Tyne-coal,
Road-rails, pig lead,
Firewood, ironware, and cheap tin trays.

In conclusion, Dr Tupper said: We can at least learn the truth and listen to those who are seeking to reveal it and not brush them aside because they deal with facts that are unpleasant and even morbid. We are passing through an inevitable phase and the novelists are reflecting it. Later will come a healthier spirit and a more catholic art.

On Thursday morning, there were two speakers on County library work, Miss Mary Frank of the New York public library and Miss Sarah Askew of the New Jersey library commission. Miss Frank has had several years' experience on a book caravan, selling books through New England, and she brought this message to librarians—people are book hungry; they prove this by buying books, going without other things, sometimes, to get them. Miss Frank then told of her experience on the book wagon of the New York public library through Staten Island. Children, Miss Frank said, gather round the wagon in numbers, but the problem is how to interest the adults. Some of the methods used were placarding, appealing through the children to the adults and the personality appeal. She suggested placing a family bookshelf in isolated country homes, to be changed every few months. She thinks, too, that it would be a good idea if library book-wagons were prepared to sell a book occasionally, and

spoke of the use of radio in advertising the library and books.

Miss Askew's subject was *How the vote is won*. She told of using every means available to interest country people in books. She had a fund of side-splitting stories which left one wiping tears of merriment from one's eyes and staring some hard fact or cold truth in the face which had been wrapped up within the story. She explained just how she had educated the county to the fact that books might be had which would help them to embroider a sash, fatten a pig, or know how their tax money had been spent. By such means she led the people to want a library. She said she never urged a library until the people were quite ready to assume the responsibility of it.

Thursday afternoon was spent in recreation, either on the golf links or driving or walking to the beautiful spots surrounding the Gap. Buckhill Falls, Bushkill Falls, Pocono Knob, Buckwood Inn, all had visitors. Some felt that it was enough just to sit on the Kittatinny piazza and look out over the varying beauty of the river and mountains.

Contemporary poetry

The Thursday evening meeting opened with a general banquet in the main dining-room of the hotel. Padraic Colum, poet and author, was the speaker of the evening and sat in the seat of honor at President Donehoo's side. At the end of the dinner, the doors were opened to outside guests who had come to hear Mr Colum.

Mr Colum's subject was *Contemporary poetry*. True poetry, said Mr Colum, is always contemporary of any time, and proved it by a bit of verse from Sappho—which might have been written that day, so true was it for all time. Mr Colum read from the poetry of Hardy, Yeats, Stephens, Frost, De la Mare, and from his own, several of his own poems coming from the volume called *Wild earth*.

He compared Hardy's *Sussex* poem

on the Country churchyard with that of Master's on the same subject, showing the greater spirituality and beauty of Hardy's. Yeats' *Ballad of Father Gilligan*, he gave with sympathy and with an Irish twist to his tongue which was heart warming. He called attention to the dignity and reality of speech that seem to belong naturally to poems dealing with Irish life—words of the soil, or as the young university lads put it, "words with a spit on them." He spoke of the strangeness of the rhythm of Walter De la Mare's verse, comparable only to the rhythm of a quaint old verse found in Disraeli's *Curiosities of literature*, called *Tom of Bedlam*. He read *The Listeners*, interpreting it so that the empty house seemed to echo in one's ears.

Mr Colum gave Vachel Lindsey a place among the real poets of America, but thinks that Frost is the greatest living American poet. Mr Colum's choice of poetry, the bit of Irish on his tongue, his unaffected but charming manner, his entire sympathy with his subject, gave to his listeners an evening of keenest enjoyment. One poem after another was asked for until at last Mr Colum said, "How much poetry can this audience stand?" but went on nevertheless, and stopped at last, defeated in his attempt to tire his audience.

Officers for the coming year are: Miss Edith Patterson, Pottsville, president; Dr G. T. Ettinger, Mulhensburg college, vice-president; Mrs Catherine M. Charles, Ellwood City, secretary; Miss Alice Willigerad, Hazleton, treasurer.

The Committee on affiliation with the A. L. A. reported:

Your committee feels that even yet it cannot with wisdom recommend a decided course, either for or against affiliation with the A. L. A., and, therefore, the committee asks that it be continued, in order that it may make further investigations, especially in regard to the effects and results of affiliation on those organizations which have affiliated.

This report was accepted and carried.

Dr Leete, for the Executive committee, recommended that the funds received from the sale of space to commercial exhibitors at the annual meetings be devoted to a scholarship or scholarships (as the amount may justify) at the Summer school for library work, the scholarship to be awarded upon competition under conditions to be determined by the Executive committee of the association. This was carried after discussion.

The Exhibit committee, Miss Jean E. Graffen, chairman, deserves much credit for the results of its work. The walls of the hotel lobby were well covered with good displays of the work of various libraries. The technical aids of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh received particular notice, as did a bulletin from the Osterhout free library of Wilkes-Barre, on which the coming of the first birds of Spring are noted by the public, the person writing down his name, the name of the bird, and the date seen. The Yardly library had an excellent display of rebound books, decorated with cut-outs from book jackets, shellacked and waxed. The Philadelphia free library showed thru photographs some exceedingly interesting extension work.

The commercial exhibits with all their various aids to librarians were most helpful, as was the presence of the men who came with them, bringing the work of each into closer touch and making for a better understanding of each other's problems.

Taking it all in all, there was a vast amount of life and movement in the 1923 conference. The Pennsylvania library association is becoming a big and vital thing. When one realizes the size of the state, it becomes apparent what a difficult matter it has been to weld all these widely separated people into one big unit. That it has been done is due largely to the indefatigable efforts of the State library commission; in learning the needs of

the small libraries, in carrying help and inspiration to them, and in making them feel a part of a great professional body it deserves the utmost credit.

Children's books

On Friday morning, Miss Hunt of the Brooklyn public library spoke on Children's reading and America tomorrow, in her usual well poised and carefully thought-out way. She quoted Judge Lindsey as to the bad effects of bad books. She had the reports of many reformatories as to the part the reading of harmful books had played in bringing boys into danger. She divided books into bad books, easily seen to be bad, which might be plainly marked "poison" and thus avoided, and the weak books which create insidious mischief, creeping harm. Growing boys, in particular, said she, need strength in their reading. Bad books are like harmful germs; a strong constitution, well nourished, throws off such germs, and a boy or girl surrounded with good influences at home and in school will throw off or grow out of a bad book or two, but a weak nature, or even a strong one with bad surroundings, easily falls a prey to their evil influences.

Miss Hunt said that hundreds of thousands of books sell in the United States every year simply because they are cheap in price; that parents needed to be educated to think of the book in terms of usefulness, that an expensive book in the long run is not expensive in what it will do for the child. A two dollar and a half book, filled with beauty of thought and beauty of language, read many times and handed down over a period of several years to the younger children is not an expensive book. She stressed the fact that the permanency of the democracy depends upon the intelligence as well as on the goodness of the nation. It takes brains as well as heart and character to make good citizens. Every dollar spent in the library should be spent for a book of particular good. As for the gift problem in

libraries, she thought it time for librarians to stop being diplomatic, and think of the children who might read the gift. She particularly warned librarians not to coerce a child to read, teach them rather to love to read.

What has been accomplished by Good Book Week was the subject presented by Miss Engle of the Free library of Philadelphia, who said that publicity, the most expensive item, perhaps, in the maintenance of a big business, was given to libraries free, through coöperation with the publishers in Good Book Week, but that librarians should be sure that booksellers were putting books that were on approved lists under the posters of "More books in the home."

She told of word going out to the public schools of Philadelphia last year that the Free library would supply the schools with story tellers during Good Book Week, and how the hundreds of demands had come in, and the librarians had risen to the occasion, although unexpected to them, and told stories and gave book talks before mothers' and teachers' clubs as well as to the children.

Animated discussion followed. Mr Huntting asked librarians to educate parents into being willing to spend more than 50 cents for a child's book, that being the popular price. A good book, said he, costs more than a poor one to put out. Some one else asked what could be done to educate publishers not to raise their prices. Mr Huntting answered that under present conditions of costs of material and labor, the publisher was justified in raising his price—see Page's Confessions of a publisher on that subject. Mr Bowker said the publisher has a more direct reason for making a book cheaper than the librarian. There must be a better understanding between the two; the common aim is the best reading.

In connection with exhibits of good books in the Pottsville library, people are allowed to leave their order at the

library, and the order is handed on to the preferred bookstore, the librarian filling out the troublesome details for the patron, such as the publisher, edition and so forth.

On Friday, the librarians interested in special libraries organized themselves into a regular section of the Pennsylvania library association. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Eleanor Wells, Drexell institute; secretary-treasurer, Miss Irma Watts, Legislative reference bureau, Harrisburg.

Miss Rebecca E. Rankin, librarian of the Municipal reference library of New York City, outlined the work that is before special librarians.

This was followed by a paper on the Work of the Pennsylvania legislative reference bureau, by Hon James N. Moore, a clear and concise explanation of the work of that bureau. It will probably be published entire.

The Trustees' section held a meeting on Friday afternoon and discussed their own problems.

On Friday evening, the association listened to a talk by Dr Daniel E. Owen of the University of Pennsylvania, "In search of Shakespeare's England," in an England infested with Fords, slang, and advertising. Imagine, said he, Shakespeare driving Johnson home from the Mermaid tavern in a Ford!

He described delightfully his visits to the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge universities, the wonderful manuscripts he had seen, and the courteous treatment he received. In finishing his humorous and informing talk, Dr Owen said there are still evidences of Shakespeare's England—there is still an Old England. He voiced his belief that there were evidences of a return to Victorianism in literature, less sex and better workmanship.

A very touching and significant occurrence was the introduction and response of Mr R. R. Bowker to the meeting. He gave a delightful reminiscent talk on his own experiences in

England, led thereto by listening to Dr Owen. He began with his visit to England in 1880, when he had gone over to establish *Harper's Magazine*, told of the many famous people he had known at that time and later. He described the boat trip made with William Black and Edwin Abbey, which was afterward given to the world by William Black as *The Strange adventures of a houseboat*. He told of standing near the grave of George Eliot, at her funeral, while at the head of the grave, as her most intimate friends, stood Herbert Spencer and Robert Browning. He met and knew well Mr Lowell, then living in England, Charles Reade, Wilkie Collins, Swinburne, Lady Richie, and many other interesting persons. He described the pranks of the undergraduates as Robert Browning's degree was being conferred upon him by Professor Brice. In all it was a treat such as but seldom comes to many people, and when Mr Bowker closed his talk the applause was long, loud and heartfelt.

On Saturday morning, Miss Alice R. Eaton presided at the last session of the conference, a round-table discussion of new books of importance.

Mrs Hall of the Public library of Towanda spoke on the fiction selection problem, of the untrained taste of many of the borrowers in a small town as a barrier to buying the books known to be the best. She deplored the inability of the librarian of a small library to see the new books. She found the *A. L. A. Booklist* too late in coming to satisfy the readers of the *New York Times Book Review*. She found the *New York Evening Post* reviews helpful, the *International Readers' Guide* reviews helpful and exhaustive. In her library, a little explanation of a book or its author was of great benefit in rousing an interest in the book. The book, *Black oxen*, Mrs Hall said she had bought upon the request of several borrowers. The juvenile court officer had complained of

it and she had then sequestered it. A number said they never had found Gertrude Atherton interesting.

In the general discussion it was said the author, Mary Borden, was thought to be too sophisticated to do any one any real good. Detective stories were discussed, the group admitting that they liked Fletcher's particularly.

Miss Eaton said if a book were written in a heavy style, with a preface, it sequestered itself, as the very young could not read that type of book. She thought it best, however, to choose sound books, as a book which it was necessary to sequester was lost to the general public. She also suggested a general book buying committee as an aid to the small purchaser, if such a thing could be managed. Miss Eaton quoted Dr Canby as saying that only five or six good books were given to the world in a year. She said she wanted to recommend Don Byrne, as an artistic writer, with wide interest, exquisite in tone and rich in romance.

Mr Bliss suggested Sabatini as popular with men, which was affirmed by all.

Mr Bowker, who was an interested listener, said that *The Library Journal* would like to give a page of just such book talk.

O. R. Howard Thomson then gave a review of Van Loon's *Story of the Bible*, which Mr Thomson said he found intensely interesting—but added "If you are the least inclined to be a fundamentalist, do not give it to your children." Discussion of the remarkable popularity of Papini's *Life of Christ* followed. Miss Eaton closed by saying that any book which made people think was good for them.

Non-fiction

Miss Mary Crocker, vice-president of the association, on the subject of non-fiction, said she thought it quite as thrilling as detective stories. Directly after the World War, no adventure seemed important, in the light of the terrible adventures of those war years, and little was attempted by

writers in that line. Now, however, it is coming back, after the silence of those last post-war years. It has been a year of wonderful sellers among the non-fiction books. She mentioned briefly some of the books she had found most interesting—Bradford's *Damaged souls*, Page's *Letters*, Lane's *Peaks of Shala*—she found the last as delightful as going into Fairyland, vivid and fresh. Powell's *By Camel and car to the Peacock Throne* she had also found charming, with a chapter on a real sheik.

She naturally could not speak of the year's best sellers without mentioning Emily Post's *Book on etiquette*, for which there is a long waiting list at most libraries. It was decided amidst discussion that this popularity is due partly to advertising and partly to the love of people for reading about things foreign to their own experience, such as life at house parties, and not so much to an overwhelming desire for good manners.

Miss Crocker closed by saying there was no end more good books of non-fiction and that she thought the year's finest trend had been thru biography and travel.

Miss Curtis of Drexel, who has lived in China, spoke of Mrs Miln's books as false to true China, altho there was much testimony as to the popularity of the stories from her audience. She also asked what people thought of *The Scudders* by Bacheller. No one seemed to have found it very interesting.

Miss Eaton said that Ossedowski's *Beasts, men and gods* was being read in the Harrisburg library with much interest by the men and also by the boys. She suggested that librarians arrange book talks at clubs, leaving the discussion to the club members instead of doing it themselves, in that way finding out what people like and getting a new viewpoint.

At the end of this last session, Mr Bowker arose and said that he wished to voice his appreciation of the con-

ference. Never, said he, had his mental reservoir been so filled, never had he found so much meat to carry away, never had he found a meeting so "right" and for all of which he wanted to bear testimony, to give, as it were, thanks after meat.

It was left to Miss Patterson, the newly elected president, to express the feeling of every one present, when she rose and thanked Mr Bowker for what his presence had meant to the meeting.

In private conversation, at the end of the conference, this sentiment was expressed on all sides. Almost half a century ago, 1876, Mr Bowker was one of the three founders of the American Library Association, and, said Mr Bliss, "ever since, he has stood the firm friend of the library profession, often with distinct sacrifice to himself."

His presence at the twenty-third meeting of the Pennsylvania library association was felt to be distinctly an honor and a benison to that meeting.

H. G. B.

Music Lists Available

A letter from Mrs James H. Hirsch, Orlando, Fla., states that an effort is being made by the National federation of music clubs and the General federation of women's clubs to establish a music section in every public library where not only books but sheet music and records may be found. The idea back of the movement is that students of music may have opportunity to study its history, that club women may have available books on musical topics and that musical education is valuable to people generally. To this end an official list of books has been compiled by Mrs Hirsch, librarian of the National federation of music clubs, which will be sent to librarians wishing to establish music sections or desiring new books for music collections already established.

Watch for Index for Volume 28 in January PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Library Meetings

California—Jeannette M. Drake, president of the California library association, called a meeting of the executive committee in Pasadena, recently, to consider the possibility of a joint meeting of the California library association and the Pacific Northwest library association in 1924. In view of the possibility that the American Library Association might meet in the Pacific Northwest in 1925, it was voted to defer such a joint meeting until after that date, meanwhile continuing the exchange of delegates between the two associations which has been such a success in the past. A joint committee to plan for such a meeting has been authorized and appointed by the two associations, and members of the California library association are already looking forward with pleasant anticipation to the 1924 P. N. L. A. meeting which will be held in Victoria, B. C. The 1924 C. L. A. meeting will be held in Pasadena, April 28-30, 1924.

H. G. G.

Cleveland—Vacation impressions of people and libraries in England and on the Continent was the subject of a most enjoyable meeting of the Library club of Cleveland and vicinity, October 16. Eleven Cleveland librarians who had visited Europe within the last year talked informally from five to ten minutes on incidents in connection with their travels. The midnight sun in Norway was described; a vivid account of an aeroplane trip from France to England was given; home life in England; impressions of Oxford, Scotland and Germany; book-buying in Europe; the David Copperfield library in London, and the libraries of Brussels and Norway were presented.

Effie L. Power, director of Children's work in the Cleveland public library, briefly described the library work of the American committee in France and the Paris summer school. A number of sketches of European scenes,

painted by William J. Eastman, Cleveland artist, were loaned to illustrate the talks.

About 150 librarians were present. Alice S. Tyler, director of the library school of Western Reserve university, is president of the club, to which all librarians in Cleveland and vicinity, any others interested in furthering library interests, are eligible. Meetings of the club are held in alternate months from October thru April.

Michigan—The thirty-third annual conference of the Michigan library association was held at Kalamazoo, October 16-18. The opening session was a business meeting at which the usual reports were presented.

In discussing the report of the Committee on certification, it developed that there was small hope of obtaining legislation and that a study should be made of voluntary certification. To this end, the committee was continued with instructions to make a survey of the educational and professional equipment of the librarians of the state.

The work of the Legislative committee, S. H. Ranck, Grand Rapids, chairman, had failed because of lack of knowledge on the part of the rural communities of what was intended. Discussion resulted in the appointment of a committee to prepare a working program for the creation of public interest and opinion in favor of library extension.

President Waldo of the Western normal school, Kalamazoo, delivered an address on Tuesday evening, speaking of conditions in libraries of state teacher-training institutions in various parts of the country. These conditions are most unsatisfactory, but Michigan is somewhat more fortunate since, of the 72 state teacher-training institutions in the United States, Ypsilanti has the best equipped library. The Michigan legislature has appropriated \$100,000 for a library at Mt. Pleasant, and Marquette has a library of 25,000 volumes, including the Moses Coit

Tyler library of 4000 volumes. Western normal school has a new building in process of construction which will house its library of 25,000 volumes.

Mr Buist of Grand Rapids, in his paper, *The Book triumphant*, divided books into two main classes—books triumphant and books militant. The former are books of power; they are immortal, knowing neither death nor decay. Books of knowledge and of use which, when their mission is ended, sink into oblivion, are militant books.

The first half of the Wednesday morning session was given over to simultaneous round-tables. At the general session which followed, Harriet Wood, supervisor of school libraries for Minnesota, discussed Coöperation between libraries and schools. Miss Wood stated that librarians are not a coöperative people. The aim of education is to teach people to coöperate, and, therefore, librarians must learn to coöperate among themselves to bring about better coöperation between the schools and the library. By this means only can the library fulfill its mission of developing a love of reading in the community.

The afternoon was left free for visiting. One notable visit was that made to the Todd art gallery where were found copies of old paintings and rare first editions of books, together with some valuable manuscripts. A visit to the Western normal school was most interesting.

The evening session was held at Lincoln high school where there is an especially well-developed school library. An unexpected and pleasant surprise was a delightful talk given by Sarah C. N. Bogle, assistant secretary of the A. L. A., in which she gave her most interesting experiences while organizing and conducting a six weeks' library training course in Paris during the past summer. She told of her royal reception wherever she went because, she said, she represented the A. L. A., but all who heard her knew it

was her own charming personality which opened all doors to her.

Mr White of the *Detroit News* gave a talk on Organization and management of a newspaper library and scraparium. He told many humorous incidents of errors and inaccuracies of the press, to decrease the number of which the library and scraparium had been organized. The library operates without a budget, the librarian having full authority to purchase anything and everything necessary to immediate service. To most librarians such a condition seems almost too good to be true. The scraparium, a new term for the old-time newspaper morgue and its direct descendant, is the most valuable part of the library because it contains up-to-the-minute information on every conceivable subject in the form of clippings, photographs, cuts, negatives, etc., carefully filed so as to be obtainable at a moment's notice.

Thursday morning was largely devoted to business, followed by discussion of county libraries, led by Loleta I. Dawson, Wayne county, Detroit. She emphasized the following conditions in the establishment of a county library: Adaptability to local needs; consolidation of all library resources in the county and concentration of authority under one head, and that a trained librarian.

Obstacles to the establishment of county library service in Michigan were discussed. In Lenawee county the difficulty arises in the inability to decide which of the three established libraries should superimpose itself on the county or whether libraries should be developed by a separate board or commission. The greatest difficulty seemed to be the existing law relating to the establishment of county library systems.

The following officers were elected: President, H. L. Wheeler, librarian, Public library, Muskegon; first vice-president, Jeanne Griffin, assistant-librarian, Public library, Kalamazoo; second vice-president, Ralf Emerson,

librarian, Public library, Jackson; secretary, Elizabeth Ronan, assistant-librarian, Public library, Flint; treasurer, Frances Berry, Public library, Detroit.

Nebraska—Preceding the meeting of the Nebraska library association, the State library commission held an institute at Lincoln, October 16-17, the object being to aid experienced but untrained librarians of small libraries in Nebraska by discussion of their every-day problems. There were three sessions of three lectures each.

Malcolm G. Wyer, University of Nebraska, gave two helpful lectures on reference work and one on government documents, always a problem in the small library. Two lectures by Mary McQuaid, Public library, Fairbury, covered very fully the subjects of statistics and reports. Miss McQuaid also gave a lecture on publicity, based on her own successful efforts within and without the library walls. Nellie Williams, secretary of the Commission, talked on general problems of administration, relations with the library board, budget system of expense, library housekeeping and book selection.

In connection with the institute, the Commission had a number of exhibits. There were collections of books, with lists for distribution, and a display of children's books which attracted special attention. This collection was carefully prepared and was the outgrowth of the belief that there is urgent need to stress careful selection of children's books. The exhibit took the form of a house of undesirable books built upon the sand in contrast to the house of desirable books built upon a firm foundation. Having visualized this contrast in the present-day output of children's books, authorized lists were provided for the librarians, who were urged to use the *Booklist* and other excellent book lists published by various states and public libraries.

There were 36 libraries represented, three of them college libraries. The 36 librarians came from 27 counties.

Rhode Island—On October 25, the librarians of the state met, at a joint meeting with the teachers, in the library of the new Commercial high-school in Providence. Mrs Anne W. Congdon, director of traveling libraries, presided.

Adeline B. Zachert, director of school libraries in Pennsylvania, spoke on "The book laboratory of the school." Miss Zachert traced the development of the school library and quoted from various educators who have encouraged its growth in the last twenty years. She outlined the qualifications of a school librarian and showed that she is "more than a dispenser of books, that she must have something of the teacher's point of view, that she must be a hostess, a councillor and a friend of all the pupils of her school." Though Miss Zachert emphasized the importance of an excellent librarian for every school library, she dwelt at some length on the necessity of having a carefully selected collection of books and the very great need of a generous appropriation. Today, we say "school library" and too often mean high-school library, which is only one feature of the work. Miss Zachert's conception of the work of a school librarian is that of being a mediator between "the most wonderful thing that God has made, the child, and the most wonderful thing that man has made, the book."

John Adams Lowe, assistant librarian of the Brooklyn public library, presented a discussion of The librarian and present day education. Mr Lowe feels that "education is more than a matter of books." "If we are not a reading-loving public," he said, "and if we are not a worth-while-reading public, it means that we've got to teach the love of reading." Mr Lowe entreated the librarians and teachers to pay attention to their own enthusiasms and loves for books, and sighted stirring examples of personalities who radiate influence of inestimable value.

On the second day of the convention, Prof Drury presided. Lawrence C. Wroth, librarian at the John Carter Brown library, Providence, discussed The librarian and printing. His address was supplemented by an exhibit of fine printing and a collection of books on the history of printing. He said that "in order to teach we must first learn," and asked that we "look studiously at good printing."

Alice I. Hazeltine, supervisor of young people's reading, Providence public library, said: "Individuality must be shielded from the evils of standardization if we are to secure from this standardization any of the benefits we wish to have." Her subject was Work with children in the small library, and here, she said, is the chance to build against the tendency so deplored by the schoolmen of today, "the tendency to put every child through the same educational mill. We say that each child's needs are a bit different from those of every other one. This is why, no doubt, we resent the phrase 'Every child should know' as applied to books of children's reading. Certain books, to be sure, make such universal appeal that one can scarcely be called an educated person who has not knowledge of them, but it is even more important that each child shall read the best which he is capable of enjoying than that he shall be held to a prescribed list of 'best books.' Children of a given age or of a certain grade do not necessarily read the same books."

A round-table was conducted by Mrs Mabel E. Colwell, librarian of the Olneyville free library, on the Problems of a small library.

EDNA THAYER

Library Progress in Ohio

The State library of Ohio in its new organization is on a program of steady progress. A close association has been formed with the state department of education and together they are working out a policy for aiding school li-

braries in the state. A school librarian will be added to the organization division of the State library in the near future. Connection is being made with the city high schools and advice to rural schools is given by letter.

At a recent meeting of the Ohio library association at Canton, there was a meeting of school librarians, with a program arranged by the Canton high-school librarian, Mr Sohn. This meeting was largely advertised among the high schools in that part of the state and the resulting attendance was larger than at any of the regular sessions. School library plans and policies of the State library were presented by Julia Wright Merrill, chief of the organization division, whose discussion brought out clearly the needs of the situation and preparedness to meet them.

A similar meeting was held at the Toledo district meeting of the Ohio teachers' association, as a part of the program of the history department, and later another meeting was held at Cleveland.

The A. L. A. School library exhibit was on display at Canton and Cleveland.

Ohio can be proud of a number of well organized high-school libraries in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Lakewood, Canton, Warren and other cities. Altho these libraries are developing admirably, there is still much ground to be occupied, but the situation is very hopeful. It is thought that the spread of the county library will solve the problem of rural centralized high schools.

The State department of education is turning over school library problems to the State library, is in accord with plans proposed and will greatly assist in enforcement of standards.

Index to Volume 28

The index for Volume 28 will be enclosed in the next (January) number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Interesting Things in Print

Vol. 14, No. 4, Michigan Library *Bulletin*, contains a beautiful appraisal of the late lamented state librarian, Mrs Mary C. Spencer.

Acknowledgment is made of a set of beautiful Christmas cards, etchings by Ralph M. Pearson, prepared by Vancil Foster, Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico.

An address, *The Soul of the library*, by Director James I. Wyer, New York state library, delivered at the commencement exercises of the Library school of the New York public library, June 8, has been issued in pamphlet form by the New York public library.

In the compass of one volume, the A. L. A. Catalog, 1912-21, reviews and classifies 4,000 books. This is a valuable reference book to put in the hands of library patrons—club women, teachers, ministers, book-buyers and students.

A valuable list of books added to the reference library of the Public library, Edinburgh, Scotland, was issued in October, as No. 3, Vol. 1, *Bulletin* of that library. The list was prepared by Adelaide Doughty of the library staff and is illuminating as touching matters of interest for students and research workers in the Scottish library.

The Public library, Anderson, Indiana, has issued a pamphlet, *A list of moving pictures based on literature*, the books on the list being in the library. Of the 175 titles, there is not one that cannot be recommended for the story as it is told in the book. They are all accepted library material and so far as the pictures follow the books, they may be patronized by both children and grown-ups with no fear of consequences.

State censorship of motion pictures, by J. R. Rutland, has been issued by the H. W. Wilson Company as No. 1, Vol. 2, of the *Reference Shelf*. The little volume comprises 177 pages and, a strange thing for a Wilson publication, has neither contents nor in-

dex. A good bibliography, however, gives added value to the wisely selected discussions of motion picture censorship. Reports from various parts of the country, discussions from various magazines, generally sound articles, give value to material for debate that will be most helpful.

For Children's Book Week, the Public library of Evanston issued a list of 100 books suitable for children, "from nursery rhyme to high-school tyme." The list was made under the direction of Edith C. Moon.

The book dealers of Evanston had the books included on the list in stock and had a table of them on display at a meeting of the Evanston woman's club. Miss Moon spoke briefly about the titles, and the sight of the wonderfully beautiful array made the teachers enthusiastic about Children's Book Week. The attitude of the dealers in the matter is most interesting. Last year they responded to Miss Wright's request to put the books in stock, which was quite a venture and investment, but because of the Evanston woman's club and the urge of "Buy in Evanston," this year they said "We'll go in big if you will do it again. We have never had such sales of children's books, not only during the week—the list has been used ever since."

The list itself is most attractively gotten up. The selection of books was made by a group of local authors, parents and librarians, co-operating with the Children's Book Week committee which was made up of representatives of the Woman's club, parent-teacher associations and the Public library. The pamphlet is decorated with a beautiful book-plate designed by Milo Winter and given by him to the children of Evanston.

Bibliographical Contributions, No. 6, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture library is a list of publications on dairying issued in the United States, 1900—June, 1923. The list was compiled by Carrie B. Sherfy, librarian,

Bureau of animal industry, and, altho the title contains the word "partial," it is a volume of 236 pages—and one wonders how much more would be possible. Then the situation is cleared by remembering that this is the library of the U. S. department of agriculture, with its various scientific books containing literature needed for investigations of the whole subject, and, since dairying is so intimate a part of almost every activity of man, it is quite patent that there must of necessity be a tremendous amount of literature relating to even the small subject of dairying. Furthermore, the volume states that no other library has so complete a collection of local, state and national official publications of American and foreign institutions and organizations which have to do with agriculture and the related sciences. Approximately 3000 periodicals are received currently, exclusive of serials. The list of both periodicals and serial publications now being received has been published as *U. S. Department of Agriculture Circular 187*.

It can easily be seen that "constant vigilance is necessary in order to keep the library on the mailing lists and to learn of and request new publications, and that there are many gaps in its collections. The coöperation of publishing institutions in keeping up its collection is earnestly solicited. The library is usually able to offer in exchange such publications of the department as are of especial interest to the donor of books to the library."

The volume is made up of five parts: Publications of state agricultural experiment stations; publications of the U. S. department of agriculture; books issued or revised since 1908; a list of periodicals; and, quite important, a subject list which is more extensive than the other four parts combined and which will doubtless be of especial value to librarians serving communities with dairy interests.

A useful book in a rural library.

Books

A remarkable contribution, not only to solidarity of interest in the book world but with the idea of increasing knowledge and amity among the nations of the world, is the annotated list of 100 books representing the literature of Australia and Zealandia, chiefly in the imaginative field.

The list was compiled by A. G. Stephens, a writer of many Australian books and editor of the Australian literary magazine, *The Bookfellow*, and a well known critic of arts and letters, at the request of George H. Locke, chief librarian, Public library, Toronto.

Mr Stephens was instructed to choose representative imaginative and creative works, works of literature identified with Australia and Zealandia, typifying Austra-Zealand character, suggesting life and thought native to Australia and Zealandia at the present day, yet readable and valuable elsewhere by reason of their art and genius. An interesting point which is made in an explanatory note is that, as a natural consequence of the change of environment, the character of the Australians and Zealandians is gradually differentiating itself from the character of the parent British stock. Many of the books listed suggest this evolutionary change.

The list is preceded by some very interesting facts concerning Australia and Zealandia (the preferred name for officially-called New Zealand), giving some little known information about these countries, the natural contour, resources, government, education, development, progress, etc.

Mr Stephens states that the body of Austra-Zealand verse is comparatively good. It is chiefly of Scottish or Irish origin. The body of prose work is good only in short stories and the best of the long novels have been written by Englishmen. The list shows a distinct quality of English literary persistence and a distinct preference of the Celtic mind for brief flights in prose and verse. Many of the books,

particularly those of travel and description, have what the compiler calls "charming novelty."

In proportion to the population, Australia and Zealandia are among the best book-buying countries in the world. Each country imports about four-fifths of its books from Great Britain and about one-fifth from the United States. The local production of books in each country is valued at less than £50,000 a year. In both countries, books and magazines are free of importing tax.

Mr Stephens was not required to decide the 100 best books but his compilation forms the first representative list of Austra-Zealand imaginative books that has been authoritatively compiled. He was not required to display the historical course of literature nor to include works of record, science or reference since the Toronto public library is already equipped with many of these. Some of these, however, were added by way of precautionary illustration.

The *Spell of Norway* is the last volume in the *Spell series* issued by the L. C. Page Company. The book is a re-issue of the former *In Viking land* and while it seemed expedient to the publishers to add it to the *Spell series* under a new title, there is every reason, judging from the contents of the book, why it should be entered there.

As a descriptive narrative of place, people, customs, and country the book has wide informative value, but to one who knows the beauty of the Norwegian areas and has experienced the delightful fascination of a sojourn among the mountains, fjords, villages and fields, the perusal of it brings again in full measure, the wonderful "spell" that is experienced in a journey thru the beautiful Norwegian country and among the kindest, most courteous, interesting people the traveler finds in Europe. A book of joyous memories for any who know Norway and of reliable information for those who do not.

The New International Yearbook for 1922 has been issued. A full survey of the political and economic field, the progress of science, international affairs, of matters literary, educational and artistic, and of popular affairs, also selection from such wide areas and of such diverse character, was no easy job even in the hands of such eminent specialists as Frank M. Colby and his corps of contributors. But seemingly fitting and adequate selection was made and the volume of nearly 800 pages is full of useful information from ab to zu. The small library will find the Yearbook a valuable reference help.

Library Schools

Drexel institute

The class of 25 students represents capacity for present equipment. Assistants from the following libraries have been granted leave of absence to take the library course: Free library of Philadelphia; Brooklyn public library; Osterhout library, Wilkes-Barre, and the public libraries of Harrisburg and Pottstown, Pa. A number not having had library experience are graduates of the following colleges: Radcliffe, Smith, Grinnell, Bluffton, Wilson, Swarthmore, Columbia university, and University of Delaware. One student has had three years at Princeton university.

Drexel Library School alumni entertained the class of 1924 in the picture gallery on November 7. At a later meeting the same evening, which was well attended, Mary P. Farr was re-elected president and Caroline B. Perkins, treasurer. The Committee on the Alice B. Kroeger memorial fund reported a notable increase in the fund.

A visit was made under the personal auspices of Mr John Ashhurst, librarian of the Free library of Philadelphia, to the new library building which is in process of construction.

The class had the pleasure, on November 9, of listening to Harrison W. Craver, director of the Engineering Societies' library of New York, who

talked upon the special work being done in his library.

A class meeting on October 19, elected Miss Gladys Seymour, president, and Miss Dorothy Ward, treasurer.

Katharine Kurtz, '23, has been appointed a cataloger in the Wilmington Institute free library.

Margaret Spillan, '23, is taking Miss Kurtz' place in the Drexel Institute library during the period of reorganization.

Elizabeth Stewart, '23, is assisting the librarian to organize a new library at Marcus Hook, Pa.

ANNE W. HOWLAND
Director

Los Angeles public library

An innovation in the cataloging course was the division of the class into two sections for the first part of the year's work. In one section were those who had had more than a year's library experience, training class or summer school instruction. They were able to cover the first 12 lessons, devoted largely to form, in less time and with more interest in the reasons for accepted procedures. Each one brought something from her own experience to the class hour. The other section was not bewildered by the discussion of possible variations from the method taught and spent more time in practice to acquire the essentials of form.

The special lecture on the Huntington library, given by Dr G. W. Cole, formed the fourth in the course on the History of books and libraries. Other lectures by the staff of the Huntington library are scheduled for January and February, to be correlated with Mr Goulding's course in Bibliographical cataloging.

The lessons in Periodicals and Periodical indices have been supplemented by special talks by Blanche McKown, by Mary Alice Boyd and by Emily Domers.

The class has elected the following officers: Gertrude C. Olds, Gardena, president; Leona Shepherd, Sawtelle, vice-president; Ella Carrick, Bellingham, Washington, secretary-treasurer.

MARION HORTON
Principal

New York public library

The new junior students are being introduced to the diversified topics presented in the course in library administration. They have recently heard lectures by Miss Mary E. Hall and Miss Adeline Zachert on school library work, a lecture by Miss Zana Miller on the care of pamphlets and clippings, one by Miss Rebecca Rankin on the Municipal Reference branch of the New York public library, one by Miss Mary E. Wood on library extension work in China, and one by Mr R. R. Bowker on the prominent personalities in early American library history. In addition to the above, F. F. Hopper has begun his series of talks on general public library administration. The course in junior book selection has so far included, in addition to the instruction by Miss Bacon and Miss Jackson, a discussion of books relating to pure science by Miss Enid Hawkins.

The usual autumn schedule of visits has begun, and within the last few weeks the students have inspected five nearby libraries and the plant of the H. W. Wilson Company.

Some changes of emphasis in connection with the senior and open courses are planned with a view to meeting the demands of the present year. Applications for the senior and open courses will be sent to enquirers upon request.

Two very interesting readings have been enjoyed at the Wednesday afternoon social hours recently, one by Arthur Guiterman, author of verse and contributor to *Life*, and one by Frederic G. Melcher, who read from Robert Frost's forthcoming book.

The following foreigners are listed as students in the Library school of the New York public library this year: Juana Manrique deLara, Mexico City, Mexico; Augusto Eyquen, Santiago, Chile; Suzanne Fontvieille, Paris, France; Marcelle Frebault, Lyon, France; Bertha Louise Gude, Amsterdam, Holland; Ingeborg Ingemann,

Bergen, Norway; George Landivar-Ugarte, Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Olga Nevzorova, Dorpat, Russia.

A fact of particular interest is that some of the countries named, Ecuador, Mexico and Russia, have never before been represented by students in the school.

ERNEST J. REECE
Principal

New York state library

Most of the visiting lecturers of the last month spoke in connection with the course on school library work. Mary E. Hall of the Brooklyn Girls' high-school gave two very practical talks, one on the Relation of the library to the other departments of the high-school and the other on Methods of teaching the library to the pupils.

Celia M. Houghton of the Albany high-school library lectured on Selling the library to the pupils and teachers and Mary E. Cobb of the State College library on the Work of the normal-school library.

The students who have elected this course on school libraries, having begun their practical work at the High-school library, assisted with the work in connection with the meetings of the State Teachers' association which were held in Albany in November.

The students had the pleasure of hearing Effie L. Power and Herbert S. Hirshberg—Miss Power, in October, on the work that the Cleveland public library is doing for children and Mr Hirshberg kindly gave an hour to the school, speaking informally and very interestingly of the work of the Ohio state library, principally in regard to its extension phases.

The classes have elected the following officers:

Class of '24, President, Mildred L. Batchelder, Lynn, Mass.; secretary-treasurer, Edith N. Snow, Boston, Mass.

Class of '25, President, Gladys T. Jones, Moravia, N. Y.; vice-president, Louis T. Ibbotson, Clinton, N. Y.; secretary, Adda F. Fowler, Lincoln, Neb.

The following students are holding positions in the State library in connection with their school work:

Dorothy W. Curtiss, Leo R. Etzkorn, Ruth Miller, Elizabeth H. Sherley, Edith N. Snow, Grace M. Makin, Dorothy A. Plum, and Mahlon Schnacke.

EDNA M. SANDERSON
Vice-Director
Pratt institute

The annual reception given by the Graduates' association to the new class was held in the art gallery of the library, November 9. Over 90 were present, 28 classes being represented and only five, 1894, 1899, 1905, 1908 and 1910, being unanimously absent. Nine members of 1923, more than a third of their whole number, were on hand for their first home-coming, always a joyous event.

The class of 1924 elected as its officers: President, Margaret E. Bates, Portland, Oregon; secretary, Catherine M. Love, Chester, South Carolina; and treasurer, E. Frances Kelly of Kansas City, Missouri.

The school had the pleasure of welcoming on November 7, Miss Mary Elizabeth Wood, a former student, who is librarian of Boone university, Wu-chang, China. Miss Wood gave the class a most inspiring talk on the work of her own library, on library conditions in China, and on her present mission to this country, an endeavor to secure part of the next installment of the Boxer indemnity for public libraries in China.

In response to a recent request, the vice-director has compiled a list of the graduates of the school by the states and countries whence they came and in which they are now holding positions. From this, it is found that students came from 42 states, as well as the District of Columbia—West Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Idaho and Utah being the only ones from which none has been drawn—and from 18 foreign countries as well. There are 153 graduates

working in New York, or about 50 more than came from the state originally, the District of Columbia, Missouri and California being the only other states that are employing more than they originally sent. Next to New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Iowa, Connecticut, Ohio and Oregon, in the order named, are the states from which the most have been drawn.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE
Vice-director
St. Louis

The school joined with the St. Louis chapter of the A. L. A., November 9, in giving a luncheon to Mr Hugh Lofting. Mr Lofting, who was introduced by Dr Bostwick, told the story of how he came to write the Dr Doolittle books.

Mrs Anna P. Mason, supervisor of work with children in the St. Louis public library, has been giving a course of lectures to the school on children's literature and on work with children.

Among recent out-of-town lecturers at the school have been Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., chief, National Civics Bureau, Washington, D. C., who spoke on Special libraries, and Irving R. Bundy, secretary, Missouri library commission, who gave a talk on Library law, as part of the general course on administration.

Several of the students assisted in caring for the library exhibit at the Coliseum at the Direct Mail Advertising convention, October 23-25.

The Association of alumnae has elected the following officers for the current year: President, Miss Eunice Weis; vice-president, Miss Dorothy Breen; secretary - treasurer, Miss Norma Klinge.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK
Director

Western Reserve university

Assignment of students for practical work has been made in the Cleveland public library system one afternoon each week, under the supervision of Bessie Sargeant Smith, supervisor of

branches. The course in loan systems is being given by Pauline Reich, '13, librarian of the Carnegie West branch of the Cleveland public library.

The October meeting of the Cleveland library club provided an enjoyable evening of vacation impressions of people and libraries in England and on the Continent, as discussed by the many Cleveland librarians who were abroad the past summer.

An event of great importance on the Library school calendar was the laying of the corner stone of the new public library building, with the address by Hon David Lloyd-George. The school was closed during the period so the faculty and students could attend. The following day, Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, assistant secretary of the A. L. A., spoke on her European impressions, giving a stimulating and entertaining report of her work in France the past summer in organizing and conducting the Summer library school in Paris.

Herbert S. Hirshberg, Ohio state librarian, was a recent lecturer, giving an illuminating and hopeful view of the work of the Ohio state library in its widening field of service to the state.

In conjunction with other book interests of Cleveland, the library school shared in the visit of Mr Hugh Lofting to Cleveland for Better Book Week. He spoke to the students and librarians on standards for children's books and also gave a "Dr Doolittle" story hour.

The class of 1924 has organized with the following officers: President, Orpha Post, Cleveland; vice-president, Harriet G. Long, Toledo; secretary, Helen M. Greene, Honolulu. This organization is composed of students in both courses completing their work in 1924.

Gertrude Barth, '18, was married to Walter C. Hitzeman, Ft. Wayne, Ind., October 24.

ALICE S. TYLER
Director

Department of School Libraries

Book Selection for a High-school Library

From an address on The Best means of book selection for a high school library, by Emily Kemp, librarian, Sam Houston high school, El Paso, Texas, given at the A. L. A., 1923.

The first consideration of a high school library is the collection of material to supplement texts and enrich the subject matter taught.

The books selected should represent the very best of their class. No book should be bought without a definite idea in mind that it will be of use in connection with some study or for the help of some individual. We should plan to have the few *best* things on each subject of general interest.

Ten copies of the right book will better serve a lesson assignment than ten single copies of different titles; however, no high school library should be without several copies of the standard "sets."

The library should be used as a place where *ideals* as well as facts are found. When we consider that high school students are at the impressionable age, where they like to act the parts of the characters about whom they read, and when we realize what books can do, we should endeavor to make the very best choice.

Today, book selection is even more difficult than in days gone by. We must beware of the camouflaged book with its exquisite pictures, books abounding in up-to-the-minute slang and books with exaggerated and sensational treatment. Retold versions have multiplied, the old legends, romances and adventure stories have been cut and transformed. We should welcome cordially the truly worthy among the new, but we should hold fast to all that is good in traditional and standard literature.

"A good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever."

Coöperation and Administration

From an address on Practical problems of coöperation and administration in elementary school libraries, by Mary A. Ayers, Public library, Kansas City, at A. L. A., 1923.

The librarian of the elementary school library who has not half a score of practical problems always with her, would probably feel that the millenium had arrived, or that the dictionary had mistaken the meanings of the words "practical" and "problem."

Suppose we list a few:

1) "Selling" the library idea, first, to the principal who thinks the library "very nice," but has never realized that school instruction gives the mechanics of that education which can only be completed by broad reading and experience; second, to the teacher who has never learned the practical value and joy of books and libraries for herself, and therefore objects to everything outside the curriculum: and, third, to the pupil who does not like to read.

2) Of how much value is required reading? Does it really make book lovers? Is it true psychology or human depravity which causes an aversion to most things we *must* do?

3) Where shall we find suitable reference material within our means, when our seventh grade is debating on the "merits or demerits of the French invasion of the Ruhr"? and the "resolved, that the use of the air should not be restricted"?

4) The illustrated notebook with all its hidden dangers to books, especially reference books! The idea appeals to a teacher as a method of making the study more vital (and we all acknowledge the value of visual instruction), but she may not realize as she offers special credits for the best illustrations that small Tony has not a single book in his home, and the

temptation may be very strong to remove a few pages from the library book.

5) If groups of books are loaned for use in a classroom, and a book is lost, who is to pay for replacing; the teacher, the pupil or the library? And is it wise to keep a group of books out of general use for an extended time? Would not the greatest good to the greatest number come from a use of the books in the library itself, unless there are duplicate copies?

These problems discussed at teachers' meetings when the librarian is expected to be present would doubtless lead to better understanding on the part of those concerned and to consequent helpful support.

A Teachers' Room in Chicago

The Chicago public library has opened up a special room for teachers in connection with the school department. The several varieties of service which are offered to the schools and teachers are centered in this department, under the direction of Adah F. Whitcomb who is now giving her entire time to the work.

On the shelves are the most important pedagogic magazines as well as pamphlet material and clippings relating to teaching from every standpoint. Groups of interesting books on various subjects of educational value will be placed in this room from time to time. A sample collection of books now loaned to the schools in class-room collections of 50 books each, arranged by grades, is shelved in this room.

The school department service maintains collections of over 125,000 volumes and these are sent out from the Legler regional branch where the storage and shipping facilities of the department are located. A collection of 50,000 mounted pictures, selected especially for school use, is ready for circulation, 40 pictures being allowed at one time on a borrower's card for a month without renewal. Stereoscopes with sets of pictures are also available.

The Teachers' room adjoins the Thomas Hughes room at the central building. This department opened with the beginning of the 1923 school year and is steadily growing in favor.

A Library's Participation

The Illinois state teachers' association met at Teachers' college, Charleston, October 12-13. Teachers' college was well represented in an exhibit prepared by the library which attracted much attention. Collections of selected books were shown, placarded as follows:

- Helps for teachers of rural schools
- Helps for primary teachers
- Books on dramatization
- Books on physical education and games
- Books for grades seven and eight
- Two-foot shelf for a country school library
- How to teach reading and recent readers
- Stories and story telling
- How to teach arithmetic and recent arithmetics

Pamphlets on geography which may be obtained free of charge, or for small cost, from railroads and other sources

A collection of illustrated editions of children's books for all grades, including the high school

Most of these exhibits were placed on tables in the library with the lettered signs, and pencils and paper were ready for copying the titles. There was also a collection of pictures of medieval times exhibited in the hall which attracted considerable attention. In the hall, were two large tables on which was placed free advertising material sent by a number of different firms. These advertising pamphlets were of value, for instance, the Merriam pamphlet on the use of the dictionary and other pamphlets showing courses of study in English for high schools, etc. Probably 20 firms sent such material on request.

Many of the teachers were quite interested in these books and the librarians were busy with all sorts of questions.

For a number of years the library has been open during these meetings with similar exhibits which have definitely proved their value. M. J. B.

News From the Field

East

Margaret B. Foley, N. Y. S. '07, has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Athol, Mass.

Helen Robinson, Simmons, '22, has been appointed librarian of the High-school, Portland, Maine.

Kathrine Malterud, N. Y. S. '22, has been appointed assistant cataloger in the Public library, New Haven, Conn.

Helen Carleton, Simmons, '14, has been appointed librarian of the Gilbert school, Winsted, Connecticut.

Mary Hiss, N. Y. S. '20, has been appointed acting librarian of the Department of hygiene and physical education of Wellesley college.

Lucy B. Proctor, Simmons, '18, is leaving the Gilbert school to become librarian of the High-school, Manchester, New Hampshire.

The City library, Springfield, Mass., has recently held an interesting exhibit under the auspices of the American institute of graphic arts. This consisted of a collection of 50 books, beautiful examples of modern typography and printing. The exhibit has been brought together by the American institute of graphic arts and will be continued from year to year to show the progress that is being made in the United States in the direction of better printing and binding of books. The whole collection will become a permanent memorial to book manufacturing in America.

The exhibit goes from Springfield to Chicago for a long exhibit there.

An innovation noted in the annual report of the City Library Association of Springfield, Mass., is the establishment of a circulating collection of phonograph records bought with an income from a music fund. Announcement was made two months before the close of the year, and the records were borrowed more than 1000 times. Injury to the records, which was feared, has happened very infrequently, and

the damage has been cheerfully paid for. The nucleus of the collection was 168 records—all of high class music—and the number is being increased as rapidly as possible, as practically all the records are out all the time with numerous names on the waiting list.

Especial effort has been made to provide enough copies of standard books outside the field of fiction to meet the demand. A test made one Saturday showed that while 556 books other than fiction were circulated, only 28 books asked for in Rice Hall where most of the non-fiction is shelved could not be supplied.

Books on the shelves, 301,436; circulation, 1,177,794. Circulation fell off seven per cent and fines increased seven per cent. This indicates less leisure for reading. Perhaps absorption in radio may have aided in this, especially in the case of boys and girls.

Seven publications by the library are noted, also the use of many lists procured in quantity from other sources and distributed, the most popular being "100 Worth-while books that every American between the ages of 25 and 45 ought to read". The Horton Publishing Company allowed the library to reprint this list as a leaflet.

Need of extension of quarters and of work outside the library is noted.

George W. V. Smith, who had given many valuable collections to the art museum, provided in his will an ample income for their maintenance. A bequest of \$25,000 to be used for the children's department is noted; also a bequest of \$67,000, the income from \$10,000 of which shall be for the purchase of scientific books. The income of another bequest of \$10,000 is to be used for general purposes.

Two important pieces of real estate were purchased to provide for future growth.

Many gifts were received during the year, including three portraits by Charles Loring Elliott.

Central Atlantic

Genevieve Kelly, Los Angeles, '18, is research assistant in the Children's bureau, Washington, D. C.

Florence Stimson, N. Y. S. '02, joined the staff of the University of Pennsylvania library in September.

Harriet H. Stanley, N. Y. S. '95, has been appointed head cataloger at the Wells college library, Aurora, N. Y.

Ruth Norton, N. Y. S., '17, has been appointed librarian of the new Monroe high-school, Rochester, N. Y.

Ruth G. Gentles, N. Y. S. '21, succeeded Ruth Norton as librarian of the Washington junior high-school, Rochester, N. Y.

Ruth F. Eliot, N. Y. S. '11, has been appointed organizer of the library of the Borden Company of New York City.

Amelia H. Robie, Pratt '14, has gone from the Detroit public library to a position at the Horace Mann school for boys, New York City.

Annina De Angelis, Pratt '20, head of the circulating department at East Orange, has been appointed librarian of the law firm of Cravath & Henderson, N. Y.

Juliet Lawrence (Wisconsin), who has been on the staff of the University of Nebraska library, has joined the staff of the South Side branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Catherine M. Lanning (Pitts. '19) has resigned as children's librarian of the Seattle public library system to become supervisor of clubs and story-telling at the Free library of Philadelphia.

By the will of the late Benno Loewy, Cornell university has received a wonderful gift of a library valued at \$100,000 said to be very rich in Shakespeareana. A like sum is left to the widow of the donor, which, at her death, will go to the university as an endowment to support the original gift.

Mary Casamajor, N. Y. S. '01, has been appointed librarian of the National Health Council of New York

City and will begin her work there on January 1. Since August, 1903, Miss Casamajor has been connected with the Brooklyn public library in various capacities, her latest position being that of secretary to the librarian.

Esther Betz, formerly in the catalog department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, has returned to the New York State library school for a second year's work.

Clara Beetle, of the reference catalog division of the New York public library, has been made first assistant in the catalog department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, succeeding Miss Betz.

Julia W. Williamson, for 10 years supervisor of clubs and story-telling in the Free library of Philadelphia, has resigned to become director of the Girl scouts of that city. Miss Williamson spent the summer in England at a training camp making a special study of scout work.

Miss Williamson is well remembered by members of the A. L. A. post-conference party of 1920 for her camp-fire stories at The Craggs, Estes Park.

Her present address is Girl Scouts of Philadelphia, 1503 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

Central

Amy Allen, N. Y. S. '12, has been appointed reference librarian at Ohio university, Athens.

Genevieve Drake, Simmons, '17, has joined the staff of the Cleveland public library.

Helen Cornell, N. Y. S. '22, has been appointed temporary cataloger in the Public library, Cloquet, Minn.

Lola A. Shepard, Illinois, '16-17, has been appointed cataloger on the staff of the Ohio State University library.

An extra appropriation of \$5,000 has been granted the Public library, Anderson, Ind., for redecorating, books and other immediate and necessary expenses.

Mrs Adria Hutchinson Grimsley, Pratt '17, who has been out of library work for several years, has taken a

position in the reference department of the State library in Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Chapman, Simmons, '22, has resigned her position in the Roosevelt high-school, Portland, Oregon, in order to be in Ohio for part of the winter. Her address is Box 124, Chardon, Ohio.

The Chicago chapter of the American institute of graphic arts will hold an exhibit of fifty books of 1923 at the Newberry library, November 21-December 15, daily from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. This exhibit has also appeared in Boston and Springfield, Mass., and will go from Chicago to St. Louis.

Percival T. Libbey was married, November 3, to Mrs. Lucille F. Bergquist of the Public library, Kansas City, Kansas. Mr Libbey has been connected with the library department of the Chicago office of Library Bureau for many years and has a wide acquaintance with librarians of the Middle West.

The library of the University of Chicago has received a gift of more than 200 rare books, including three incunabula, from Prof J. M. Manly, head of the department of English. The collection represents life-long search and will be very valuable to research students. The library now has a total of 184 fifteenth century books.

The fifty-eighth annual report of the Public library, Detroit, Mich., takes up the issue of *Library Service* for November 1. Some of the statistics are: Population, 1,184,425; registered library readers, 191,188; books on the shelves, 560,770; circulation, 2,995,437; agencies, 113; number of volumes in Burton historical collection, 40,940; appropriation, \$881,568.

Work has begun on the preparation of a card catalog of the contents of the Hoyt reference library, of Saginaw, Michigan. This is an endowed reference library operating in conjunction with the Public libraries of Saginaw,

under the general direction of John S. Cleavinger.

The cataloging is in the immediate charge of Miss Jessie A. Reid, Illinois, '23.

In a report of the comptroller of the University of Illinois it is stated that the General university library received \$331,770 for maintenance in the period 1921-23, and the School of library science, \$25,984.

The expenditures of the General library were: Operation and maintenance, \$108,778; salaries, \$97,907; wages, \$537; office expenditures, \$4103; printing and publications, \$931; travel, \$24; supplies, \$101; repairs, \$327; miscellaneous, \$9.

Expenditures for the School of library science were: Operation and maintenance, \$13,269; salaries, \$12,907; wages, \$11; office expense, \$39; printing and publications, \$31; travel, \$263; supplies, \$3; miscellaneous, \$13.

The Carnegie Corporation has added \$25,000 to its previous endowment of Western Reserve library school, on condition that friends of the institution contribute a like sum. The trustees have made good their promise of \$20,000 toward this fund and the Alumnae has brought together in cash something over \$3,600. The whole endowment is to carry the name of William H. Brett, so long associated with the school as founder, dean and friend.

Opportunity is offered to the friends of Mr Brett who wish to share in the creation of this memorial to him and to benefit the cause of library training as well.

A most attractive little pamphlet under the title, *The Practical democracy*, covers the annual report of the Public library, Kalamazoo, Mich. An apt illustration of "all the people" on the front cover catches the attention at first glance. The report is in the form of a statement of progress, really an advertisement of what the library is able to do, and aside from the financial

statement, there are few statistics on the four pages. This statement gives only the high points, receipts from taxes, fines, gifts, etc., to the amount of \$50,212, and the expenditures for books, binding, salaries, supplies, etc., which brings the amount to \$45,899, leaving a balance of \$4,313. A footnote concerning an expenditure of \$5,474 for equipment states that the amount includes \$3,000 for a lot on Portage street. Four telephones are listed, with the statement, "Calling 348 makes the library a branch office to any business house or home."

Being of small size, reading the report presents no formidable task and doubtless its distribution will make many friends for the library in Kalamazoo.

South

The Shreve memorial library, Shreveport, La., was opened December 6.

Harriet E. Bosworth, Simmons, '18, has become librarian of the U. S. Veterans' hospital, No. 79, at Dawson Springs, Kentucky.

Verne Bowles, N. Y. S. '14, resigned her position with the Missouri Historical Society library in September to become head cataloger at the Public library of Tulsa, Okla.

Margaret Batcheller, Simmons, '15, has returned to the Port Arthur works of the Texas Company, as librarian of the Research Laboratory library. Her address is 825 New Orleans Avenue, Port Arthur, Texas.

Grace Hill, N. Y. S. '12, who was for several years head of the catalog department of the Kansas City public library, resigned in the early summer and has since been appointed supervisor of loans at the University of Texas library, Austin.

The annual report of the Carnegie library, San Antonio, Texas, records: Number of books on the shelves, 60,433; active borrowers, 22,862; population, 177,000; circulation, 209,334. The community is served thru the main library and 29 branches (school). A

number of valuable gifts were received during the year.

Dr Samuel A. Jeffers, for some time assistant librarian at the University of Missouri, Columbia, died at his home in Columbia in October. Dr Jeffers was from his early youth a student and was for many years a teacher of Greek and Latin. He was in charge of the university library while the librarian, H. O. Severance, was in service with the A. L. A.

Miss Margaret Dunlap has resigned as librarian of the Public library, Chattanooga, Tenn. Miss Dunlap had been librarian since 1903 when the institution had only 200 volumes and no circulation. The library now contains 65,000 volumes, has more than 23,000 active borrowers, and an annual circulation of more than 231,000.

Resolutions expressing heartiest appreciation of the long and valuable service of Miss Dunlap as librarian and very great regret at the necessity,

(New York Times Book Review)

(May 27th, 1923)

"VISTAS"

VISTAS. By Walter C. Stevens. Illustrated. New York: Mcintosh Book Company, 456 West 22d Street. \$2.

IT is the merit of this little book of travel sketches in France that it gives such gayly realistic glimpses of scenes and experiences as enable the reader to vision the places clearly and feel as if he had been there himself. By their realism and exactness of description they carry over into the reader's mind not only the pictured scene, but also a feeling of nearness to and understanding of the French people who have enacted it.

Again, the glimpse is of some little breakfast restaurant, or of a quaint shop, or of one of the municipal dog-baths in Paris on the bank of the Seine, or a café chantant, or some other equally characteristic French scene. Three chapters are concerned with the Church of St. Michel, its tower and its mummies, at Bordeaux. The opening chapter gives an entertaining and veritable account of the various performances necessary before the traveler can be safely domiciled in France.

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on account of ill health, of her severing her connection with the library were passed by the Library board. A further resolution commended Miss Dunlap to the municipal pension board of Chattanooga. Response was made to the latter resolution by bestowing upon Miss Dunlap continued compensation as one of the city's retired employees.

The State library commission of North Carolina moved into its new quarters in the new Agricultural building at Raleigh, October 26. The occasion was celebrated by a reception to the public. The surroundings give promise of great future activity. The commission occupies three rooms on the fourth floor of the Agricultural building and one large room on the first floor where book-cases have been installed which will accommodate 35,000 volumes.

The commission now maintains three distinct loan services; traveling libraries, package libraries and individual loan service. In addition to this service, free debate libraries are sent out to rural schools and debating societies; study club collections are sent out to members who do not have access to public libraries; package libraries on civics, social work, child welfare, the South, and agriculture are forwarded by mail on request.

An exhibit of children's books suitable for gifts and for school work was on a table at the opening reception, and copies of the A. L. A. list of children's books were distributed.

Nora Crimmins was elected librarian of the Public library, Chattanooga, Tenn., November 16, to succeed Miss Dunlap, resigned. Miss Crimmins has been assistant-librarian in the Chattanooga library for many years and for much of the time, as acting-librarian, has carried on the work in the absence of Miss Dunlap.

Miss Crimmins has that rare combination of great literary knowledge and taste and much executive ability. She has long been a close student of library service and specialized in public documents at the Atlanta library

school. She has been an active member and officer of the Tennessee library association for many years and at present is serving her second term as its president. She is also secretary of the Book circulating section of the A. L. A.

In an extended notice of Miss Crimmins' appointment, the press of Chattanooga expresses the satisfaction of the community at the turn of affairs. The *Times* says:

In every phase of the work she has given herself with undiminished enthusiasm, finding no part of it too small for her consideration and nothing too difficult to attempt and see thru to the finish.

Adelaide Rowell, for 10 years connected with the library, the greater part of the time as reference librarian, has been made assistant-librarian. Miss Rowell is an able second for Miss Crimmins. She is, in addition, a dramatic writer of no small ability and has had several of her plays published and presented.

West

Grace L. E. Bischof, N. Y. S. '22, who resigned as chief of the circulation department of the Public library, St. Joseph, Mo., has accepted a similar position with the Kansas State Agricultural college, Manhattan.

Miss Inez C. Haskins (Pitts.), for some time children's librarian of the Georgetown branch of the Public library, Seattle, Wash., has become children's librarian of the Parmly Billings memorial library, Billings, Mont.

Lillian E. Cook, for the past year librarian of the State normal school, Minot, N. D., has been appointed secretary and director of the North Dakota public library commission to succeed Mary E. Downey, resigned. Miss Cook is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin library school. She was formerly city librarian of Valley City and Grand Forks, and was with the Minnesota library commission as head of the traveling library department. The sort of experience she has had fits Miss Cook admirably for her new work which she will begin January 1.

Bessie R. Baldwin, who has been librarian of the James memorial library,

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Williston, N. D., will be first assistant and chief of the traveling library department. Miss Baldwin's work in the state has won for her the respect and regard of many of its people. She is a graduate of the Minnesota normal school at Winona, a graduate also of Pratt Institute library school, and has had work at the University of Wisconsin.

Margaret Welch, a graduate of North Dakota university, with library experience in Minneapolis, will be cataloger and reference librarian of the commission.

Pacific Coast

Barbara Coiteux, Simmons, '16, is now living at San Pedro, California.

Mabel Hulberg, Los Angeles, '22, has been appointed librarian of the South Pasadena high-school.

Helen Percy, Los Angeles, '16, has become research worker in the library of the Lasky Corporation.

Helen R. Hoagland, Los Angeles, '22, has been appointed assistant in the Los Angeles public library.

Eva Alford, Wisconsin, assumed her duties as librarian of the Sellwood branch of the Portland public library, October 1.

Hubert Frazier, Los Angeles, '22, has been made principal of the shelf department in the Los Angeles public library.

Joy Gross, Los Angeles, '23, has been appointed librarian of the Medical library of the University of Oregon, Portland.

Alice L. Knapp, N. Y. S. '17, is temporary assistant cataloger in the library of the California State Teachers college, San Diego.

Frances H. Fuller, N. Y. S., is spending the winter in Portland, Oregon, and is doing part time work with children in the Library association of that city.

Jessie Melvill, for 16 years assistant in the Portland public library, resigned, October 1. Miss Melvill plans to spend her time on a small farm at Eola, Oregon.

Sylvia Clark, for 10 years librarian of the Howe memorial library, Hanover, N. H., has been appointed librarian of the St. Johns branch of the Portland public library.

Hazel Burk, Los Angeles, '22, has resigned as librarian of the Public library in Santa Fé, New Mexico, to become librarian of the Lincoln Heights branch in Los Angeles.

Wanted—Classifier to reclassify, by the Library of Congress system, the library of Haverford college, Pennsylvania.

Wanted—First circulation assistant in charge of loan desk. Knowledge of books, ability to meet public and to direct six training-class graduates. Some experience required. Salary, \$1500-\$1600. Apply at once. Public Library, Youngstown, O.

Wanted—The Denver public library wishes to purchase 5 second-hand copies of the A. L. A. List of subject headings, third edition, 1911. They should be in good condition. Please write, stating price, to Rena Reese, Public library, Denver, Colo.

Wanted—The Gary public library needs at once three active and alert children's librarians for specially interesting work in cooperation with the Gary school system. These librarians are to serve in branch libraries doing personal work with children coming in classes from nearby public schools. College or normal school and library training desired, library and teaching experience helpful. Salaries \$1500-\$1800 to start. Apply to Wm. J. Hamilton, librarian, Gary, Indiana.

FOR SALE

Harper's Weekly, published during the Civil war, 1861-1865 inclusive; bound in 10 volumes, \$200. Apply, S. H. Chisholm, Union Club, Cleveland, O.

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